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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Secretary General Arrives in Rabat

LD1208185791 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid arrived in Rabat today on a visit to the Kingdom of Morocco within the framework of a tour to Maghreban states. [passage omitted]

In a statement to journalists, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: [Begin recording] First of all, it gives me pleasure to undertake this visit to Morocco to express my thanks to His Majesty for having supported my election as the secretary-general of the Arab League, and also to listen to His Majesty's instructions regarding the future phase of joint Arab action.

I am also pleased to meet my brother and colleague, Brother Abdellatif Filali, the foreign minister. In fact, it is always a source of happiness for me to be in this fraternal Arab country. In fact, my visit to Morocco falls within a tour of a number states. God willing, I will go to Mauritania from here.

In reality, the phase we are going through is an important one that warrants consultations and meetings, especially during the times the Arab world is going through. I will ensure that the Arab atmosphere is cleared and ranks are reunited in order to achieve our pan-Arab goal. During the opportunity presented to me by this visit, I will try to push for more Arab solidarity and meetings among Arab brothers for the sake of Arab interest. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

Khalid al-Hasan Attacks 'Arafat Leadership Style

PM1408160791 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Aug 91 p 1

['Abdallah al-Qaq report: "Proposing Formation of Government Under Walid al-Khalidi, Khalid al-Hasan Renews His Attack on 'Arafat"]

[Text] Amman—In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan attacked PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, demanding that he abandon his tyrannical line. Al-Hasan, who is also chairman of the Palestine National Council Foreign Affairs Committee, vehemently criticized the dictatorial line pursued by the Palestinian groups' secretaries general.

If 'Arafat does not change the line he is pursuing, he added, further confusion and problems will occur in the PLO—which would adversely affect all the Palestinian people's interests and rights. The PLO, he said, is going through a difficult situation as a result of the policies pursued by 'Arafat without referring to the leadership.

Khalid al-Hasan strongly criticized recent Palestinian statements on the peace process and the continued concessions over the Palestinian rights question. He said, "There are many concessions which might be conveyed through the statements made by officials from the Palestinian leadership."

Finally, Khalid al-Hasan demanded the formation of a Palestinian provisional government acceptable at both the Arab and international levels, proposing that it be headed by Dr. Walid al-Khalidi, an independent Palestinian and a Harvard University professor, or Anis al-Qasim, an independent Palestinian figure. He said: "I will not run for the leadership of that government, whose first task should be to break the PLO's isolation—the isolation imposed as a result of 'Arafat's policy during the Gulf crisis."

Al-Husayni Discusses PLO Delegation Membership

TA1408173791 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 13 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Jerusalem Arab Studies Society, has stressed that the PLO alone is authorized to announce the names of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations. He added that there will be no announcement of the names of the members of this delegation until after the PLO officially declares its consent to participate in the peace conference. He said that under no circumstances will there be any contradiction of the Palestinian leadership's stance in this connection. "Consequently, we can say that current talk about the nominations for membership in the Palestinian delegation is premature and without basis. We say this without harming the credibility of the individuals whose names are being mentioned. One should note that certain parties are trying to create confusion at this delicate stage." Al-Husayni explained that the list of the delegation's members may be prepared at the appropriate time, and there is the possibility of changing the members or adding others to it before or during the convocation of the conference. Al-Husayni said that the PLO has not declared yet its agreement to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

'Ashrawi Stresses Jerusalem Representation

LD1408201891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 gmt 14 Aug 91

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the Palestinian delegation which met in recent weeks, on the basis of the PLO's instructions, with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, has stressed the need for a real representation comprising Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories] in the conference on peace in the Middle East, scheduled for October.

In an interview published today by the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, 'Ashrawi said that the issue of representing Jerusalem is, basically, the core of the Palestinian issue. In this respect, she noted that the existence of any Palestinian or Arab in the peace process would be meaningless without Jerusalem's being represented. 'Ashrawi said that there has been no change in

the declared U.S. policy, nor in the replies we have so far received, including the designation of Jerusalem as occupied territory. What applies to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip also applies to Jerusalem.

'Ashrawi said that the subject of the right to self-determination remains within the framework of negotiation. She summed up by saying that the urgent subject now is the adoption of the principle of the freedom of the Palestinian side to choose its negotiators and representatives.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas on Current Developments

TA1408164791 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Aug 91 p 3

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] On the Jordanian stance and Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] says:

There is great understanding and continuing coordination with Jordan. There are no disagreements, rifts, or problems between us and the brothers in Jordan —neither on minor issues nor on major ones. Our problem is with Israel, which raises conditions that are unacceptable both to us and to Jordan. Consequently, the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab effort should be directed toward confronting those conditions, which affirm the intransigent Israeli position that seeks to foil the peace conference.

Jordan's demands do not differ from ours with respect to the conference, whether regarding content, the required memorandums of understanding, or the issue of Palestinian representation. Furthermore, this Jordanian-Palestinian stance does not differ from the Egyptian position. Egypt supports the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding.

On the Syrian stance, Abu-Mazin says: We have called, and continue to call, for more coordination and unity of positions with Syria and all the Arab brothers, particularly at this crucial stage. Damascus agreed to the convocation of the conference. We understand that Syrian stance, and Syria should understand ours.

[AL-MANAR] What about the Palestinian delegation, the names, and the makeup?

['Abbas] We have not yet reached the stage of preparing the names of the delegation and the details pertaining to the composition of the delegation. Once we get to that stage, there will be no problem in selecting the names. Our confidence in our kinfolk is limitless. Each of our people is trustworthy and committed.

[AL-MANAR] Will there be personalities from East Jerusalem among the names of the delegation?

['Abbas] Naturally. We insist on a delegation from Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and abroad. Our people and its leadership will not accept a delegation that lacks Jerusalem's representation.

[AL-MANAR] Is there a desire to hold a new Palestine National Council [PNC] session?

['Abbas] The preparatory committee made arrangements for a new PNC session after the former PNC term ended. There is an inclination to hold the new session in Algiers in September, as you reported in AL-MANAR some time ago.

[AL-MANAR] What about the dialogue between the leadership and the Palestinian factions in Damascus?

['Abbas] We launched a dialogue and called on the Damascus' factions to attend the preparatory committee, but they spurned that call. We asked them to begin another dialogue for that purpose, since we are eager for their return to legitimacy, especially under the present circumstances, which require the closing of ranks. They turned down that request as well. National unity, however, is alive and will not be harmed by nonattendance.

[AL-MANAR] What is the status of the dialogue with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

['Abbas] There exists a dialogue with Hamas. We shall engage in a separate dialogue with the movement. A committee has been set up for this purpose and an invitation has been issued to them. We are hopeful of Hamas' concern for legitimacy. It will find open doors.

[AL-MANAR] Threats have been made recently against some of the brothers inside the occupied territories, due to the meeting with James Baker and the possibility of forming a Palestinian delegation to the peace conference. What is your view on this?

['Abbas] This is an antinational and immoral act by whatever group is issuing those threats against the brothers presently engaged in the dialogue or who might participate in the conference. What the brothers have been doing, and will do in the future, is creative national work in the service of the Palestinian people and their cause. I fear that Israel might exploit those threats; those making the threats would be providing a cover to Israel. Those engaged in the dialogue are nationalist brothers assigned by the PLO and all the factions. Even some of the factions making the threats took part in the decision to authorize those brothers.

[AL-MANAR] What can you say about Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the reason for your repeated visits to Cairo?

['Abbas] Our relationship with Egypt is strong and strategic. Egypt has a great and important role. We do not overlook the significance of it. The only essential thing at this stage is to continue coordination and consultation with our brothers in Cairo in order to confront the challenges, because this is a critical stage.

[AL-MANAR] Will Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visit Cairo shortly?

['Abbas] Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in the Egyptian capital within the next few days. I don't believe that the level that I represent is adequate for drawing up positions. This requires higher levels. Hence, contacts and meetings between President Husni Mubarak and Abu-'Ammar have become a pan-Arab necessity. The sooner they are implemented, the more they will help advance the peace process. We take pride in the Egyptian position, which rejects the Israeli conditions and which has been reiterated by President Mubarak.

[AL-MANAR] James Baker paid a visit to the Arab Maghreb states. Did Palestinian and American officials hold any meetings during this visit?

['Abbas] We have not met any U.S. official since the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. We did present our position to the Maghreb brothers, and they, in turn, presented it to the Americans.

[AL-MANAR] There have been reports about Washington's intention to invite some personalities from the occupied territories to meet with President George Bush at the White House. Does the PLO support this idea?

['Abbas] We do not oppose it, provided that is not compensation for other things of which we are not aware. If the invitation seeks to continue the dialogue launched by Washington with the brothers in Jerusalem, we have no objection to that.

[AL-MANAR] What is the nature of the Soviet position on the current developments?

['Abbas] The Soviet Union tells us of its ideas, or those that it discusses with the Americans, without exerting any pressure on the Palestinians. For our part, we accept whatever is consistent with our own interests, and reject what is inconsistent, without affecting our relationship with Moscow.

[AL-MANAR] Is Abu-'Ammar ready to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir?

['Abbas] Abu-'Ammar is ready to meet with Shamir in any country other than Israel. We welcome the opening of a dialogue with the Israelis.

[AL-MANAR] If disagreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides over the peace conference continue, can the conference be convened with the participation of Arab parties, but without the Palestinian side?

['Abbas] The peace conference is basically to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as the occupation of the Golan. All other issues are secondary. If the Arabs go alone, therefore, I don't believe the conference will solve the problem. It will deal with the results of the problem, not its crux. The main fundamental problem will remain. I therefore believe that the Arab parties will think a thousand times before taking that step. For their part, the Palestinians will not attend the conference to engage in a dialogue with the Israelis alone, without an Arab presence. We will not go to the conference alone, if the Arabs do not favor that.

[AL-MANAR] What can you tell us about the Palestinian political moves in the international arena?

['Abbas] We have embarked on widespread moves in various countries of the world and in international and religious forums, in order to focus attention on the Israeli position on the questions of Jerusalem and settlement. All we are asking is the implementation of UN resolutions.

[AL-MANAR] Some of the brothers have paid visits to a number of European countries and the United States, where Bethlehem mayor Ilyas Frayj met with senior officials. Was the PLO informed of such visits beforehand?

['Abbas] The PLO was aware of those visits and agreed. Brother Ilyas Frayj will also visit Latin America. Those efforts are in the service of the people, the cause, and the leadership.

[AL-MANAR] What is the impact of the Israeli stance on the peace conference?

['Abbas] In light of Yitzhaq Shamir's hold on power, and through the conditions it raises and the positions it adopts, Israel undoubtedly is interested in undermining the peace efforts and wasting the chance for peace. Continuation of Israel's current policy, which ignores the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and continuation of settlement activity do not contribute to peace. It is a short-sighted policy. Israel has waged five wars in less than 40 years. The Palestinians' attainment of their rights in accordance with international legitimacy is the sound basis for a real peace. Otherwise, no one can tell how many wars Israel will wage in the coming 20 years.

[AL-MANAR] Do you have a message for the kinsfolk in the occupied territories?

['Abbas] We take great pride in our kinsfolk. Despite the suffering, a just and lasting peace will be achieved. No principles will be renounced. The land occupied in 1967, as well as Jerusalem, should be returned. We insist on rejecting settlement and adhere to the establishment of a state and a confederation.

Sinyurah Interviewed on Current Peace Efforts

TA1308162891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 12 Aug 91 p 16

[Interview with Hannah Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor in chief, by Khalid Abu-'Akr; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: How do you assess the Palestinian position regarding the American efforts to convene a peace conference in the region?

A: As soon as U.S. President George Bush outlined his administration's stand in front of Congress in March of

this year, which he said was based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and calling for the exchange of land for peace, an immediate welcoming reaction was announced by the PLO and local Palestinians.

As a result, the PLO authorized a local Palestinian team to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Baker to exchange views, clarify positions and carry messages from the PLO Executive Committee to the Bush administration.

The suspended dialogue between the PLO and the Bush administration, which previously was taking place in Tunis on the level of the U.S. ambassador, has been indirectly resumed with the PLO and the Palestinians in Jerusalem and Washington on the highest level, with the secretary of state in person.

The Palestinian position remains deeply rooted in the declarations of Nov. 15, 1988, the peace initiative of all the Palestinian people and the clarifications of President Yasir 'Arafat in December of the same year. This was demonstrated in the efforts to send a Palestinian delegation to Cairo to meet with an Israeli delegation, but this was aborted by the Likud.

Q: Talks are being held to reach a memorandum of understanding [MOU] between the Palestinians and the United States. Can the MOU be considered as guarantees which will allow the Palestinians to participate in the peace conference?

A: Officials from the U.S. State Department, led by Dan Kurtzer and others, are in Jerusalem to arrive at a memorandum of understanding with the Palestinian side as well as the Israeli side.

Basically, the Palestinians want a written reiteration of the American position on Security Council Resolution 242 that defines East Jerusalem as occupied territory and on the following points:

- Clarifications of the political legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, to include the right of self-determination.

- The future of Jerusalem, to be an issue for negotiations at the peace table.

- The Palestinian delegation should be chosen by the PLO without interference from any party, and that delegation should have the right to have as its reference the PLO for instructions and consultations.

- The necessity for negotiations in good faith, for the Bush administration to get an Israeli commitment to freeze the settlement drive and expropriation of land for the duration of the negotiations.

If those principles are met, in the talks being conducted, then it would facilitate a positive affirmative response to attend the peace conference by the PLO.

Q: How do you see the Palestinian representation at the conference?

A: All the parties to the peace conference will be present in separate, independent delegations. The Palestinian side certainly prefers to be present in a similar manner.

In the previous efforts to organize a meeting in Cairo, the PLO, in conjunction with the U.S. administration and the Egyptian government, arrived at an understanding whereby the PLO appointed a seven-person delegation composed mainly of Palestinians from the occupied territories, including Palestinian deportees and delegates from East Jerusalem.

Today, we do not condone Israeli conditions as it is solely the right of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO, to choose the Palestinian delegation.

Palestinians are aware of the sensitivities of the occasion and they used the umbrella of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in 1985, and might of their own free choice utilize such a form on this occasion.

Q: What about the Israeli conditions?

A: The Israeli conditions are similar to the Arab ones from the Khartoum Summit Conference in the aftermath of the June 1967 war. It is an obstacle to peace, and even if a ceremonial meeting takes place, the conditions will eventually cause the breakdown of such a conference. They are in contravention of international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions.

Q: The issue of Jerusalem remains unresolved. What kind of settlement can be found to solve this problem?

A: Without Jerusalem, no solution is possible. Jerusalem is in the minds and hearts of not only the Palestinians, but the Israelis. It is an emotional, political, religious and cultural issue for all the Arabs, the Muslim world, the Christian world as well as the Jewish world.

To avoid discussing Jerusalem is to doom the historical efforts to resolve the conflict in all its dimensions.

'Arafat Wants Help in Drafting Arab 'Principles'

PM1508094491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Aug 91 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Allam and 'Abdallah al-Dardari report: "Move To Announce 'Arab Principles'"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Damascus—[passage omitted] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat concerning the call for the drafting of an Arab "declaration of principles to be signed by the Arab parties invited to the proposed peace conference and to include foundations and principles to which the signatories would adhere in the negotiations—principles concerning Palestinian rights and representing guarantees to defend these and Arab rights as a whole in the occupied territories and holy Jerusalem."

In this context it has been decided to hold a quadripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the head of the PLO Political Department ('Amr Musa, Faruq al-Shar', 'Abdallah al-Nusur, and Faruq Qaddumi) in Cairo on 11 September on the sidelines of the 10 September Arab League Ministerial Council session.

Sources in Cairo told AL-HAYAH that 'Arafat has sent similar messages to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn of Jordan.

These developments come within the context of what AL-HAYAH was told by senior Egyptian sources, namely, that the contacts and consultations among the four parties to surmount the Palestinian representation problem have resulted in "acceptance of the principle of the PLO's announcement of the Palestinian delegates' names, provided that none of them is directly linked to it."

They also come within the context of the continuing consultations on certain procedural questions between Jordan and the PLO vis-a-vis the delegation's leadership or rotation and the authority to which the Palestinian delegation would refer.

Informed diplomatic sources in the Egyptian capital have revealed to AL-HAYAH that long strides and major successes have been made in the question of the Palestinian delegation's formation within the Jordanian delegation and that Arab consultations among the parties concerned with the conflict with Israel are still continuing both with one another and with the United States and the Soviet Union with a view to resolving the East Jerusalem problem.

The sources said that the principles that the PLO has demanded be included in the proposed declaration concern the upholding of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; the rejection of the existence of any settlements in the West bank and the Gaza Strip; the inclusion of East Jerusalem in the occupied territories to be negotiated when implementation of international legitimacy—and especially of Resolution 242—is discussed; the right of repatriation for Palestinians in the diaspora; a unified interpretation of the resolution in question; and a commitment to the 1974 Rabat summit resolution stating that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls for U.S.-PLO Dialogue for Peace

TA1308161891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 12 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "PLO Participation Is Essential for Peace"]

[Text] As the astonishing efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which recently took him as far as the Northern African Arab states, continue, one is inclined to question the merits of the American political approach of pushing Arab governments to attempt to persuade the PLO to accept the American terms for a "peace conference." It would be better, for the sake of peace, if the U.S. administration recognized that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points and establish its own direct talks with the PLO leadership.

We agree with the motive behind the American attempt to employ some Arab states to exert pressure on the PLO, or at least try their luck to convince its leaders to accept the American terms for holding the "peace conference." The reason for this pressure is clear—the PLO's approval of the American-led process is essential to guarantee its success.

We agree with this fully. We believe that in order for a settlement in our region to be viable, Palestinian acceptance of it is essential. But rather than meeting with the PLO and discussing terms for holding the conference with its leaders, and attempt to convince them of the American point of view, the U.S. secretary of state opted to visit everyone but the Palestinians.

This was an open attempt to enlist as much pressure as possible, by various means, on the Palestinians to accept the American terms of the conference. But how can one expect the Palestinian leadership to accept the American arrangements or to trust them? The fact that the United States still rejects meeting with the Palestinian leadership, the PLO, means that it is not seriously considering the national rights of the Palestinian people and, one way or another, is adopting Israeli policy in that regards and is playing the role of guaranteeing Arab acceptance for this Israeli policy.

It is more important, however, for anyone concerned with peace in the region to carefully consider whether such efforts of exerting pressure on the Palestinian people to cede their basic rights will ever bear fruit. A careful and responsible reading of the region's recent history will show the contrary.

The Palestinians have demonstrated a clear willingness for peace over the years. This was enhanced by adopting a new political program at the 19th Palestine National Council session held in Algiers in 1988, which called for establishing the Palestinian independent state in accordance with U.N. resolutions alongside the state of Israel and not in its place.

The Palestinian leadership on many occasions has asserted that it is more than ready to reach a genuine peace with Israel and settle all outstanding issues of conflict, which would come naturally if the Israeli side respected the Palestinian national rights and showed a willingness to recognize them.

The continued Israeli rejection of the Palestinian peace initiative, and the continued American refusal to begin a dialogue with the PLO, coupled with U.S. pressure on the organization through various channels to accept the American terms, means that Palestinian national rights, including the issue of Jerusalem, are being jeopardized.

Unless something is done to prove the contrary, no one should blame the Palestinians for rejecting participation in a suggested process that will not achieve a real and just peace.

'Arafat Seeks Portuguese Intercession With U.S.

PM1308155091 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 10 Aug 91 p A1

[Unattributed report: " 'Arafat Writes Letter to Soares"]

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat this week sent a letter to Mario Soares to request the Portuguese Republic president's personal mediation "with the parties involved" in the preparations for the Arab-Israeli peace conference. The letter was delivered at Belem Palace Thursday by PLO representative in Lisbon 'Isam Bisusu.

'Arafat refers in laudatory terms to the Portuguese head of state's personality and international prestige, and declares himself convinced that Soares "will do everything within his power" to ensure that "the Palestinian people's political rights and their right to self-determination" are respected, and that the Israeli policy of "blackmail" and "faits accomplis" is defeated.

In asking Mario Soares to intercede with the United States in support of Palestinian views, 'Arafat is discreetly reciprocating the initiative taken by Soares at the height of the Gulf war, when he sent one his advisers to Tunis to "hear" the Palestinian leader's viewpoints.

* New Tensions Seen Between King Husayn, PLO

91AE0544A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 3

["News Analysis: Signs of New Tension in Jordanian-Palestinian Relations; King Husayn's Criticism of PLO Arouses Questions in Cairo"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—At a time when political circles in Cairo are closely observing the current contacts on the problem of Palestinian representation in the peace conference, the latest developments in Jordanian-PLO relations have attracted attention from the angle of their impact and ramifications on this problem. The most significant of these developments is the kind of rhetoric that King Husayn used to talk about the PLO in his interview with the NEW YORK TIMES of 30 July 1991.

This rhetoric has not happened for a long time, specifically since Jordan acknowledged that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. How? Observers have paused here, not at the indirect criticism or obvious censure which King Husayn has addressed to the PLO position on the peace process, but at the king's reference to the PLO as representative of only the Palestinians outside the occupied territories and not those in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The question being circulated now is: In this regard, can King Husayn's interview with the NEW YORK TIMES be considered the beginning of a new phase in which Jordanian-Palestinian relations return to the state of explicit rivalry which characterized the second half of the 1960's and the first half of the 1970's, or to the state of tacit and latent rivalry that continued to exist until Jordan resolved to end it through the decision on legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank in the summer of 1988?

A related question is whether this development launches the natural end of the Arab camp that supported Iraq during the gulf crisis and in which Jordan and the PLO were the most prominent elements?

It is noted that this interview was published only three days before the onset of the painful first anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This was pure coincidence, of course. But in some observers' view, this coincidence is not devoid of an indication of how brittle the foundation was on which this camp—a camp which combined historical adversaries under abnormal circumstances—was built.

Amazing Tone

However, diplomatic sources have expressed their amazement at the tone which King Husayn has used in talking of the PLO. So far, the PLO has avoided making any comment on this tone, especially since this development came shortly after approval of the new Jordanian National Charter, which contains a special section on Jordanian-Palestinian relations—a section which the PLO considers to be positive. Observers interpret this development as a consequence of King Husayn's resentment of the PLO leadership's procrastination in giving clear approval to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation formula, even though the PLO did not exclude this formula from the recent contacts between the two sides. In its contacts with Egypt, the PLO has also stressed that this formula is still in the picture, but that it continues to seek to link the formula to obtaining the power to appoint the Palestinian representatives in this delegation and to developing a formula acceptable to the PLO to solve the problem of participation of elements from East Jerusalem.

Some observers believe that the PLO's reluctance to support the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation formula embarrasses the Jordanian leadership, which seeks to exploit the peace process in order to overcome the negative conditions caused by its stance on the Gulf crisis. Amman seeks to accomplish this by numerous means, through contacts with other Arab capitals, and through the "white book," which its Ministry of Foreign Affairs has written on that stance.

The prevailing belief among observers in Cairo is that the development demonstrated by King Husayn's interview with the NEW YORK TIMES adds a new dimension to the dilemma faced by the PLO leadership, also because of its stance on the Gulf crisis. It is most likely that this leadership had not expected to be subjected to such criticism at a time when it has built its calculations

on the "alliance" with Jordan to partly make up for the extensive Arab isolation from which it has been suffering since then. Perhaps the severity of the tone used in this criticism is also surprising.

Husayn has said explicitly: "People who have lived far from the brotherhip that has lasted all these many years have no right to offer advice on what must or must not be done." He has also cast doubt indirectly on the theory of sole representation of the Palestinian people, which has been monopolized by the PLO. Husayn considers the PLO a temporary body on the one hand, and a body that is not concerned, on the other hand, with the Palestinians at home who have been suffering for a long time.

This is the first time in which King Husayn speaks of the PLO in a manner that indicates that its representation has not included the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians since 1974, i.e. the time when he proposed a formula to settle the dispute between the PLO and Jordan over representation of the Palestinian people. That formula fundamentally provided for making Jordan responsible for the West Bank so that it could seek to regain it from Israel while making the PLO responsible for the Palestinians in the diaspora, whether those living in other Arab countries or those living in foreign countries.

But this formula disappeared quickly because of the Arab world's tendency, at the time, to support the PLO and its leadership. That support is reflected in the Rabat summit resolution which considers the PLO the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Even though Jordan did not recognize this resolution until the early 1980's, the Arab umbrella that the PLO enjoyed curbed Jordan in its dispute with the PLO—a dispute which assumed various forms and which seemed to have ended finally with the disengagement decision of 1988.

In this context, some observers believe that the weakness of the current Arab umbrella, or of its most important parts, over the PLO has given Jordan a historic opportunity to resume its fundamental role in the process of settling the Palestinian issue. But other observers see that the recent disagreement between the two sides surpasses the issue of the historical rivalry and reflects the extent of Jordan's worry that the PLO's current confusion will lead to depriving the Palestinian people of what seems to be an available opportunity that may not recur if it is wasted. Between the two assessments, it actually seems that there are tremors of a new phase in the relations between Jordan and the PLO—a phase that will be more decisive in the latter's history if the disagreement between the two sides escalates. It is noted that Jordan, in addition to the collapsed Iraq, is the only Arab state in the Arab East and Arab Gulf region that 'Arafat has been able to visit recently. If the disagreement, whose tremors have already begun, escalates, the PLO will lose its last asset in this region that is the closest to Palestine and will be left with nothing but the Arab Maghreb states and a few other states. This may hasten the creation of a new Palestinian leadership from the occupied territories.

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Sahara, Mideast Peace

LD1508062491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi by correspondents Nacera Cherrid and Rachida Denai in Algiers on 14 August—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Algeria, as well as the Polisario Front, is not losing hope for the successful development of the current referendum process. Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahimi is in favor of genuine peace in Western Sahara, and wishes that the latest developments in this business might be—I quote—a summer cloud, and nothing more. Mr. Ibrahimi was contacted during the 1300 news bulletin, and answered the questions of Nacera Cherrid and Rachida Denai.

[Ibrahimi] We will follow very attentively what is happening in the Sahara territory, and regarding the Sahara question. We at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have published a communique expressing our regret that there are difficulties, problems, and even fighting, and express the hope that all this is a mere summer cloud, which will disperse quickly. What we know of Morocco's stand is what has been said officially in the United Nations and elsewhere. All I can say—I have to be careful, after all—all I can say is that we are following up this business, and hope that the difficulties are overcome. We know that the United Nations secretary general and his men are making efforts in this direction. We ourselves are in favor of this process, started by the United Nations with everybody's agreement, continuing in the best circumstances possible, and for real peace at our borders and among our brothers—who are, after all, our main partners, with whom we hope to continue working toward building the Maghreb.

I would merely like to say one thing: that there is a certain press in Morocco, which from time to time chooses a facile solution, that of saying: Our problems are created by Algeria. I think it is very clear now that we are in no way responsible for the existing problems, and that, on the contrary, the only thing we are doing, are trying to do, is to help calm people down and promote solutions which are reasonable and acceptable to all.

[Announcer] Regarding chances of a Middle East peace conference and the peace initiatives, Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi announced the holding of the Maghreb summit:

[Ibrahimi] The world has changed very deeply, you know, and the changes are affecting us. The influences, the effects of the changes, are often negative, but I believe that if we know how to read this new situation, if you know how to take the necessary stand, take the necessary initiatives, we may also be able to benefit from the existing situation. Will there be peace, or not? It will certainly not be easy, whether there be an international or regional peace conference. The agreements will not be achieved in the early days, but there is a chance. There is an international situation which most clearly does not favor certain points of view, but I believe that we must try after all to draw what benefits may come out of the situation.

The Palestinians have made very big concessions, have shown considerable pragmatism. The international community should appreciate these stands, sacrifices, and concessions, but the Arabs themselves must show solidarity and intelligence to enable them to win something after all. I believe that praiseworthy efforts are being made by various parties—we mention the Russians and the Americans as well as the Europeans, the Arab countries, and the PLO—praiseworthy efforts which aim at creating favorable conditions for the holding of this conference.

Those who are distinctly less cooperative are the Israelis. Whether the Israelis manage once more to make the efforts, and whether attempts to restore peace to the region fail or not, we shall see. There will certainly be an Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] summit in September. I leave it to our Moroccan brothers, who are holding the presidency, to announce the exact date, but I can tell you that there will certainly be a summit in Morocco in September, and there may even before that be a meeting of foreign ministers. In any case, contacts continue actively between the AMU countries to see if we can reach a common stand on this matter.

[Announcer] Mr. Ibrahimi also spoke about Algerian proposals in the event of the summit:

[Ibrahimi] Algeria's ideas can be summed up as follows: Algeria has a stand of very active solidarity on the side of the Palestinian people, and on the side of other Arab countries whose territory is occupied or who are directly involved in this conflict with Israel. But we have also backed the stand adopted by the PLO and by successive Arab summits, from the Fes Summit in 1982 to the Casablanca Summit in 1989, and we are therefore in favor of any genuine effort aimed at restoring just and long-lasting peace in the region. Now there is a precise plan, (?it is said), that one is working for a conference called a peace conference, so as not to call it regional but international, and that this conference must try to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 238. We support these efforts, and we are in close contact with the Palestinians and with the other Arab parties to see which is the best way to support these efforts. There are still many, many issues to settle, particularly those related to the Palestinian representation to the conference, and the agenda.

[Announcer] The president of the Republic confirmed the holding of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers in September. Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahimi has also spoken about this matter:

[Ibrahimi] The president has officially given his agreement to a meeting of the Palestinian National Council. It

remains to discuss with the Palestinian brothers the date and conditions for holding this meeting. You know the situation is very serious, after all, and the time has come for very well thought out and serious decisions. We strongly recommend to our Palestinian brothers that this meeting be one of thought, rather than speeches and maneuvering.

[Announcer] In order to cut a fine figure, the Western press cried loud and clear that even the Islamic Conference Organization had approved the maintenance of the embargo against Iraq. Foreign Minister Ibrahimi wanted to put things in their place on this issue. In fact he denied the information.

[Ibrahimi] The Istanbul declaration was, in fact, a draft whose adoption was postponed until later, because it honestly was not very well done. But the postponement was certainly not because of Israeli condemnation. Our Turkish friends themselves suggested that the adoption of the text be postponed.

Ghozali Views Domestic, Regional Issues

PM1308151891 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 91 p 5

[Interview with Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by Randah Taqiy-al-Din in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Taqiy-al-Din] You broached Algerian-U.S. relations during your talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Could you explain what was discussed?

[Ghozali] I explained to Secretary Baker the present situation in Algeria at the economic level and the steps the government intends to take to tackle the debt problem and reactivate investment operations. But that was not in the framework of bilateral talks. I invited Baker to lunch and he briefed me on his present mission in the Middle East, just as I briefed him on the situation in our country.

[Taqiy-al-Din] What can be said about Baker's mission in the Middle East and the proposed peace conference?

[Ghozali] We expressed our view to the effect that it is not possible to settle the Palestinian issue in isolation from the PLO. Algeria is willing to participate in any endeavor for the sake of peace, but at the same time we cannot know the ultimate aim of the present peace process.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Is it true that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will convene in Algiers?

[Ghozali] Yes. A decision has been taken to convene a PNC session in September. We were asked to host it so we have welcomed it. [passage omitted]

[Taqiy-al-Din] What are the results of your consultations with the Algerian political parties, especially since the Islamic Salvation Front and the Socialist Forces Front did not attend them?

[Ghozali] The mere holding of these consultations was an achievement in itself. It was a precedent which was prepared before the present government was formed.

[Taqiy-al-Din] But did the Salvation Front's absence not reduce the importance of these consultations?

[Ghozali] We know the reasons for the Islamic Salvation Front's absence. The Front itself has explained them. It is facing internal problems which it is hoping to resolve in order to be able to take part in another round of consultations. The Islamic Front was invited to take part in the consultations, like the other political parties. This is why it should take part, because we want to hold a dialogue with everyone, especially with regard to preparations for the general elections. [passage omitted]

[Taqiy-al-Din] Some political parties doubt that it is true that general elections will be held and believe that the failure to set a date for these elections indicates they will not be held.

[Ghozali] The government's position has not changed at all. I said before the government was formed that this government's principal aim would be to organize free and impartial elections. And that I hoped that they would take place in November. [passage omitted] If some people are casting doubt, I cannot comment on that. The government, as it promised, is working to implement its program. Because of the protests staged by everyone regarding the election program, I requested the submission of ideas and proposals in order to draw up a program that enjoys everyone's support. I will not take any steps before exploring the parties' views and proposals. [passage omitted]

[Taqiy-al-Din] With regard to Algeria's debts, do you intend to approach the IMF in order to reschedule these debts?

[Ghozali] I am trying to avoid it—that is, if we assume that I can do so. All the states that have approached the IMF to reschedule their debts had no other solution to these debts. I am not among those who label the IMF "diabolical." On the contrary, I cooperated with the IMF in the past when I was finance minister. The difference between me and the former prime ministers is "linguistic." They regarded the rescheduling of debts as a "diabolical" act, but they failed to do that which could have spared the country such an eventuality. In fact they pushed it toward it, despite their rhetoric about the disadvantages of rescheduling debts. I believe that such a step can only be taken when it becomes impossible to pay debts. For my part, I want to continue paying off the debt, using my own money, and my money is oil and gas. [passage omitted]

[Taqiy-al-Din] Why do you still maintain the state of siege (emergency)?

[Ghozali] The state of siege means transferring police powers to the Army. It is a measure that we have resorted to because of the deterioration of security and the threats facing the country and the constitution. The situation has greatly improved now, but this improvement has not yet been consolidated. We will lift the state of siege when we ascertain that the situation is stable.

[Taqiy-al-Din] It is said that it was the Army which brought you to power and that it has an opinion on every action taken.

[Ghozali] The source of that view is certain Algerian political circles, even before the state of siege was imposed. The situation that I have experienced since assuming the premiership is that the Army has always warned politicians about, and drawn their attention to, the need to tackle the country's problems. It has also warned against persisting in demanding that the Army settle domestic problems. If any establishment is dissatisfied with the state of siege, it is the Army, because it is doing a job that is not its own. Besides, the Army abandoned politics long ago. The Algerian Government is a civilian one, and the Army does not dictate what I am doing at present. The state of siege means transferring Interior Ministry powers to the Defense Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Taqiy-al-Din] The Islamic Front is likely to win the next elections. Does that pose a threat?

[Ghozali] Who knows? But the Islamic Front that is capable of winning the elections is that which will participate in the legitimate democratic program. This, because there is no room for any party that seeks to deviate from that framework. There are many officials in the Front who adhere to that program, contrary to the prevailing belief.

[Taqiy-al-Din] But these officials do not enjoy Madani's and Belhaj's popularity.

[Ghozali] I do not want to talk about the people in detention. But anyone who wishes to exploit a certain group of the people adopts its language, that is, the language that it easily understands. Popularity is also measured by the position of all groups of the people. The open strike which the Islamic Front called for was staged only by 5 percent of the workers.

[Taqiy-al-Din] So I conclude that you do not fear the Islamic Front.

[Ghozali] What I fear is not the Islamic Front, but the deterioration of the social situation resulting from the economic deterioration, which exposes the country to all kinds of adventures. [passage omitted]

[Taqiy-al-Din] Is it true that you are President Bendjedid's candidate for the presidency?

[Ghozali] The disease affecting this country, and especially the Liberation Front, is the fact that politicians have always worked to strengthen their own personal influence, ignoring their fundamental role, which is to run Algeria's affairs. This is the cause of the tragedy that we are experiencing, and I will not fall into that trap. I have a responsibility and a task which I must carry out, and I do not think about anything else.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Have your relations with the Gulf states improved since the Gulf war?

[Ghozali] It is a long and slow process. The Gulf war's effects on citizens have been painful, and this will take a long time to correct. Everyone is making efforts to stop matters from deteriorating and to find ways of restoring cohesion to the Arab family on healthier foundations.

[Taqiy-al-Din] You received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, asking you not to receive Baker, for the sake of solidarity among the Arab Maghreb states. How are matters proceeding with Libya after Baker's visit to Algeria?

[Ghozali] The Libyans know that we informed Baker during his visit to us of the need for the United States to make an initiative toward Libya. We have always worked to reduce tension between Libya and Europe and between Libya and the United States.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Economic, Political Issues

NC1408194891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 14 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt will not accept policies imposed on it from abroad in either the economic or political sphere, emphasizing that Egyptian policy stems from Egyptian interests alone.

During his meeting with popular, party, and executive leaders in Alexandria governorate today, President Mubarak explained that the world's appreciation of Egypt's position was clear as evidenced by the cancellation of debts, the agreement with the IMF, and the support for the Egyptian national economy.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that during the meeting, President Mubarak praised the performance of a number of factories in both the public and private sectors. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak explained that there are major and large industries in Egypt, such as iron and steel, which will not be sold to the private sector but will be expanded and developed through new capital investment and modernization. The door will be open to the citizens to buy shares in these companies to achieve a partnership with the private sector, both Egyptian and Arab.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak affirmed that ending government control over companies and the business sector will achieve financial and administrative reform and balance in the pricing system.

The president explained that the government is making slow and calculated steps to achieve success, adding that these steps take into consideration the experiences of other states. Mubarak affirmed that the liberalization of the Egyptian economy is taking place gradually and according to calculated steps.

The president noted that the plans to change the banking laws are being amended following the problem of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. These changes will include an increase in the Central Bank's ability to supervise the banking sector to safeguard shareholders' and depositors' assets. The Central Bank will also be able to supervise multiple deposits by Egyptian banks outside Egypt. [passage omitted]

Regarding the opening of the border between Egypt and Libya, President Mubarak explained that we must have a pan-Arab view and work for the benefit of both countries. We must rise above limited and narrow interests and allow current activity between the two people to achieve an economic and social balance.

The president noted that the opening of the border was in response to an existing situation and to the demands of the Egyptian and Libyan people. It also took place within the framework of the unprecedented agreements signed between the two countries which reflected the desire of their people and which were approved by the countries' executive and popular institutions.

Regarding the monetary system, trade exchange, and integration as a result of the opening of the border, President Mubarak explained that the market will dictate its terms and a balance will be achieved, noting that integration is not a result of decisions coming from above but is imposed by the people through common interests and challenges.

President Mubarak praised Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's vision and eagerness to promote the process of joint action and integration between the two countries.

President Mubarak discussed a number of joint Egyptian-Libyan projects, including a railway link which will promote the flow of people and goods and other projects in the industrial and agricultural sectors. [passage omitted]

Turning to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, President Mubarak explained that Egypt and its president have supported the Sudanese leadership since it assumed power as have Arab and other nations. Certain trends in Sudan are, however, inconsistent with Egypt's interests and security and with the nature of bilateral relations. These trends will have negative effects on the relations. We have explained this to Sudanese officials a number of times. [passage omitted]

Mubarak discussed the peace process and the efforts to convene the international conference, noting that a clear change in the Arab position exists and that Arab nations have responded favorably to the idea of a peace conference. Efforts are being made in all directions to overcome obstacles hampering the conference, foremost of which is the issue of Jerusalem. He explained that the convening of the conference is not an end in itself but a means to hold a dialogue and overcome the problems. President Mubarak expressed his hope that the differences will be resolved and that the conference will be held at the appropriate time.

Article Criticizes Jordan's Paper on Gulf Crisis

NC1408210491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—AL-MUSAWWAR's Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad has said that the white paper recently issued in Jordan on the Gulf crisis does not contain the truth. The paper abridged some events, distorted others, and had many deliberate omissions in an attempt to convince Arabs that Jordan tried to maintain a neutral stand in the conflict. The editor also said that the paper attempts to convince the parties that Jordan wanted to play a mediating role, and that the Jordanian initiative, which nobody knew about until now, could have led to a favorable conclusion of the crisis were it not for a statement made by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's official spokesman on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In an editorial that will be published in AL-MUSAWWAR on Friday, the writer questioned the motives that prompted King Husayn to issue this paper and thereby rub salt in unhealed wounds and bring to the Arab memory his mistaken positions on the barbaric invasion that Jordan applauded and kept silent about, if we rule out Jordanian complicity in the event. This paper raises more doubts about the king's credibility, Ahmad said.

The writer adds that the white paper twists facts and selectively retells events in an attempt to convince the Arabs, even though it is too late, that Saddam could have withdrawn from Kuwait and that an Arab solution could have been attained were it not for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement issued on 3 August, which merely regretted the invasion as an act that would have serious repercussions in the Arab world.

Ahmad added that nobody in the Arab world could believe the story told by the so-called white paper on the Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement and its claims that the statement blew the chances of peace, impeded the Arab solution, and prevented Saddam from withdrawing.

The writer expresses his surprise that King Husayn issued this paper when he is the first to call on people to turn over a new leaf. The erroneous reporting of events in the white paper raises more doubts on the king's credibility at a time when times call for coordination with Jordan on new basis of mutual trust to prepare for the peace talks. The writer

asked: What new leaf can we turn and what mutual trust can we have following this paper?

In a lengthy article entitled "A Reading Into the King's Account of the Gulf Crisis," the writer challenged the paper's account of the events and said that facts were misreported and misinterpreted in the king's paper. He noted that from the beginning of the unexpected Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Egypt insisted on two basic points: Withdrawal and the return of the legitimate government.

Turkish Actions in Northern Iraq Denounced

NC1308124891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0646 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In one of its editorials, AL-AHRAM denounces the Turkish forces' aggression against northern Iraq in pursuit of the Kurdish opposition forces and the Turkish prime minister's declaration that the Turkish forces will occupy a border strip in northern Iraq to set up what he called a buffer zone to prevent Kurdish attacks on Turkey.

The paper says: Despite the bitterness and deterioration in Iraq's relations with most Arab countries, there is not a single Arab who accepts Turkey's occupation of part of northern Iraq to set up what it calls a buffer zone. It expresses hope that Turkey will stop this aggression quickly, because it is in fact violating one of the most important bases of international legitimacy by violating the sovereignty of Iraqi territories and annexing parts of them by force and also because it is resorting to undemocratic ways in dealing with the Kurdish problem.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says: If Turkey really wants to further integrate its relations with the countries of the region and if it wants to increase its regional status and weight, it cannot do so through aggression but through respect for the other countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Libya

'Source' Reiterates Condemnation of Terrorism

LD1408124391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Aug (JANA)—The Voice of America has stated that the American Government has sent its annual report on its strategy with regard to national security. It [word indistinct] in this report that it would continue to watch what it called Libya's course of action.

An informed source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has commented on this as follows:

The Great Jamahiriyah regrets the continual attempts by the United States to involve the name of the Great Jamahiriyah and declares its rejection of the policy of hegemony. It repudiates interference in other states' policies and calls for the solution of national and regional conflicts by peaceful means and in accordance with the UN conventions [word indistinct], international legitimacy, and the respect of states' sovereignty, the will of the people, and their right to self-determination as well as human rights.

The source added: The Great Jamahiriyah has clearly and publicly condemned all forms of terrorism aimed at innocent civilians and has made efforts for the release of detainees and prisoners of conscience in all parts of the world.

It recalls here the repeated and famous appeal by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the brother leader of the revolution, for the release of hostages in Lebanon which resulted in the release of some of them.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister on Prisoners Held by Iraq

LD1408194491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1821 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, indicated that the Iraqi regime is still holding five to six Saudi prisoners, among them the pilot who crashed inside Iraqi territory.

In a press statement following his inspection of King Faysal Naval Base in the western province today, he said: "We are putting forward this demand through the Red Cross and the United Nations. They will return and then we will know their fate, God willing."

Regarding a question on His Royal Highness's audience with a member of the Japanese parliament during today's tour and its link to the development of the naval forces, his royal highness indicated that there is no relation between this tour and the issue of the Japanese delegation.

His royal highness pointed out that the delegation is here to visit some of its technical units that took part in Desert Storm and to visit the regions in which they cooperate with us and assist us regarding the environment and the damage caused by the the ruler of the Iraqi regime to our coasts and those of the State of Kuwait.

His royal highness said: "I have received them upon directives from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and I have thanked them for their stance."

On the progress his highness witnessed at the King Fahd Naval Base in al-Gharbiah, he said: "I hope that it will be you and Saudi opinion that criticize, discuss, and propose." He added: "In the speech you hear, I expressed my point of view to colleagues and brothers. If I say anything it will be like somebody praising himself, which is not allowed and is not a virtue of those who serve the Armed Forces."

To a question on an Omani proposal to set up a Gulf force and on the possibility of a delegation from the defense ministers conference, he replied that there are meetings of chiefs of staff. He said: "Proposals in any country always target military issues; discussing such issues falls to the military and officials who then pass them on."

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN1308174591 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 13 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received today a verbal message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Air Survey

JN1408163191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—The Foreign Ministry denounced the violation of Iraqi airspace by the U.S. plane entrusted with conducting an air survey, describing it as a flagrant aggression against Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, contravening the principles and objectives of the UN Charter.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn explained that the U.S. plane entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi airspace at 1200 on 12 August and left at 1515 on the same day.

The letter draws the secretary general's attention to Iraq's earlier objections to this operation. It noted that a copy of this objection was received by the secretary general through a letter addressed by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry to the executive chairman of the special committee office in New York.

At the end of his letter, the foreign minister stressed that Iraq officially condemns and denounces this operation, which constitutes a grave precedent against the territorial integrity and airspace inviolability of a UN member state.

Envoy, UN Chief Discuss Detained Briton

JN1408202191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Geneva, 14 Aug (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met here today with Barazan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative to the European headquarters of the United Nations.

In a statement to reporters following the 45-minute meeting, Barazan al-Tikriti said that among the topics he discussed with the secretary general was the question of British engineer Ian Richter, who has been held in an Iraqi jail since 1987 for offering bribes.

Responding to a question on whether the meeting resulted in any chances for the release of the British prisoner, Barazan al-Tikriti said: "The Richter issue is not within my jurisdiction and is not within the jurisdiction of the secretary general. However, it falls within the jurisdiction of the Iraqi Government and the London government. [no closing quote as received] He indicated that there are outstanding matters between the two countries.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the UN European headquarters said that if outstanding issues between Iraq and Britain are considered positively, there will be progress with regard to the Richter case.

The UN secretary general's meeting with the Iraqi ambassador came on the heels of a similar meeting he held with Martin Moreland, British permanent representative to the UN European headquarters, in Geneva which lasted 45 minutes, during which the British Government's position on the Richter case was discussed.

AFP—UN Team Finds No Violations on Missiles

NC1508105691 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Aug 15 (AFP) - Iraq seems to have heeded a United Nations demand to destroy its short and medium range surface-to-surface missiles, ballistic missile experts said here Thursday.

The 16-member United Nations delegation spent a week in Iraq making surprise visits to five sites in search of Scud and Frog missiles. U.N. Security Council resolution 687, which set the terms for the Gulf war ceasefire, stipulated that Iraq must eliminate missiles and non-conventional arms.

"What I can say right now is we have not found additional missiles and so far there is no violation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions," mission chief Wolfgang Butler said late Wednesday.

The experts also inspected seven missile production sites declared by Iraq. Butler said Monday his group had not found any equipment which violated the resolution. [passage omitted]

The team also inspected Iraq's 350 millimeter (nearly 14 inches) wide barrel supergun which had been nearly completed.

Butler said the next U.N. ballistic mission in September would decide whether the weapon would be destroyed, adding that the gun they had seen Sunday had been "abandoned."

British Government Assailed Over Frozen Assets

JN1508072391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has assailed John Major's government for its refusal to release frozen Iraqi assets in British banks.

The paper, which reflects the views of the Defense Ministry, said in its editorial today that America's honest subservient—Britain—is unjustly linking the destiny of the Iraqi people's funds to the destiny of a single person: a Briton legally condemned for spying on Iraq.

The paper explains that the economic embargo resolutions do not apply to Iraqi funds frozen in British banks. It notes that the Security Council's Sanctions Committee allowed the use of these assets to finance the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

The paper accuses John Major's government of encroaching on the powers of international organizations through such practices. By insisting on freezing the assets, says the paper, Britain goes even beyond the unjust Security Council resolutions against Iraq and its people.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that the allied states, led by the United States, join Britain and France in their hostile

and inhumane positions against Iraq and practice double standards toward human rights and issues.

The paper says that Iraq understands the humanitarian motives and justifications for solving the issue of the hostages. As it did in the past, it demands their release and stresses the impermissibility of using them as a card in the political game. Iraq does not understand, however, why the United States and the Western countries are ignoring the destiny of the Iraqi people, which have been kept hostages of an economic siege for more than a year.

'No Progress' Reported in Saddam-Barzani Talks

NC1408143191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Informed sources in Baghdad have reported that no progress was made during last night's meeting between tyrant Saddam Husayn and Mas'ud Barzani regarding their ongoing negotiations on Kurdish autonomy. The source added that the sides' differences are apparent and that there are no indications whatsoever that the sides are coming closer to reaching an agreement. In fact, the source added, the sides seem to be going in opposite directions despite statements by both sides that they are close to resolving the issue.

Kurdish Radio on Results of 'Important Meeting'

NC1208190891 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1708 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] More than 1,000 political and military cadres from the Karkuk and al-Sulaymaniyah Governorates attended an important meeting today in Qulijan, in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Among those present were the brother members of the political bureau, the leaders of party centers, the command of the first army [al jaysh al-awwal], and the commands of the first army's forces and battalions. The participants reached the following decisions:

1. The ongoing negotiations between the Kurdistan Front delegation and the Iraqi Government were examined in detail. It was reaffirmed that throughout their history the Kurdish people and the Kurdish liberation movement have supported a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem and have never closed the door to dialogue. The Kurdistan National Union insists on continuing the dialogue, ensuring its success, and achieving a permanent agreement.

2. It was emphasized that the Kurdish liberation movement is stronger today ever before. It is continuously working to reorganize and strengthen its ranks. On the international level, the Kurdish issue has attracted ever growing attention and support, particularly recently, through the efforts of brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Kurdistan National Union, to familiarize the international public and government officials with the dimensions and history of the Kurdish problem. The brother secretary general was received by heads of governments, ministers, and kings during his recent tour of various countries.

3. Emphasis was laid on organizational work and its importance in the present and future stages, particularly among the broad masses, and on the need to strengthen the Kurdistan Front and to maintain the unity of the Kurdish people.

4. Stress was placed on the need to draw up regulations and guarantees to ensure that everyone respects and implements the decisions of the Kurdistan Front and that all violators, particularly those who break the law and disturb the security and peace of the citizens, are brought to account.

Opposition Claims Government Reneging on Amnesty

NC1308155491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Well-informed sources have confirmed our earlier reports about how the two-faced Ba'thist regime is arresting people who turn themselves in to the Saddamist authorities in response to the false amnesty announcement. The unjust regime has transferred hundreds of people who were deceived by this false announcement to unknown destinations in Baghdad.

The sources added that many of them have been incarcerated in al-Radwaniyah prison, which is located southeast of Baghdad.

The treacherous regime recently executed 90 of those who were deceived by the amnesty announcement for their part in the popular uprising in al-'Amarah. This is hardly suprising, as the regime of the Ba'thist clique has a long tradition of hatred and treachery.

Al-Radi Criticizes Kurdish-Iraqi Negotiations

PM1208101091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 Aug 91 p 9

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Radi, member of the Iraqi Democratic Grouping Central Committee, by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Alam-al-Din] Why did the agreement of the Iraqi opposition forces that met in Beirut falter or collapse? And why did the Kurds deviate from it?

[Al-Radi] All I can say is that matters have not reached the point of collapse. There are several wings within the Iraqi national movement, and each has its own problems. The Kurdish question is certainly a prominent issue in Iraq. It is not only a matter of democracy, but also a matter of self-determination for the Kurdish people.

We are aware of the difficulties facing the Iraqi people and the difficulties facing the Kurds. We are also aware of what the Kurdish national movement faces in terms of

its view of a solution to the problem within the framework of a comprehensive democratic system in Iraq.

When the events occurred and the uprising was suppressed and the Kurds and the Iraqi people were subjected to repression, perhaps some Kurdish leaders thought that they had to establish some kind of relationship with the Iraqi regime and to hold some kind of negotiations. [passage omitted]

We voiced reservations about the Kurdish move and many criticisms were made of that action. It was regarded as a mistake on the Kurdistan Front's part. We demanded that the Front clarify its position and announce a clear stance. [passage omitted]

We are sure that no dialogue or negotiations can reach a positive outcome with a regime such as the present Iraqi regime, the Saddam Husayn regime. All that the Kurds can achieve is some kind of temporary truce, which they may think is important now. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] Why have the Kurdish negotiations with the Iraqi regime still not produced complete results?

[Al-Radi] Saddam is maneuvering and trying to gain time in order to reorganize his power and to be able to impose his hegemony again over all forces and areas, now that this hegemony and his influence have diminished in the country as a result of the uprising and the collapse of his troops' morale.

['Alam-al-Din] Does that mean that you advise the Kurds to stop the negotiations?

[Al-Radi] We have announced our reservations from the outset. We said that, despite all the Kurdish movement's justifications, they are not enough to justify negotiations with the Iraqi regime. The sound path is the unification of the people's forces again with a view to ending the present regime and allowing the Iraqi people to determine their own destiny, for one fundamental reason; namely, that if any agreement is reached, it will produce no results and no solution. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] What is your opinion of the present fears about the possibility of Iraq's being partitioned?

[Al-Radi] Iraq will be partitioned if Saddam Husayn manages to stay in power. The specter of partition will disappear if the conditions for a rapid change for the Iraqi people are achieved. Change and democracy are the protective shield for Iraq against any split or partition. [passage omitted]

SAIRI Fears Chemical Attacks on Marshlands

LD1408174991 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said in a press release here Tuesday that the Iraqi Government anticipates full-scale attacks against fleeing Muslims who have settled near marshlands towards the southern parts of Iraq.

It said units of the Iraqi Armed Forces have taken possession [as received] near marshlands in preparation of attacks, and added that there are rumors that the Iraqi Army is to spray sulphuric acid and other chemicals from Army choppers on Iraqi fugitives in those areas.

SAIRI has called on all world governments and human rights organizations to do something by way of preventing unprovoked belligerent acts against civilians by the Iraqi Army.

Ministers Comment on Various Shortages

Irrigation Water

JN1508101291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0648 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud has stressed that Iraq is suffering from an acute shortage of irrigation water for agricultural use.

AL-JUMHURIYAH quotes the minister as saying that about 48 million dunums [1 Iraqi dunum is equal to about 2,500 square meters] are now suitable for agriculture in Iraq. Available irrigation water, however, is sufficient only for 16 million dunums.

He said the ministry's technical teams are unable to expand the agricultural area because of the current water scarcity, especially in the Euphrates.

The minister explained that to tackle the problem of water shortage in the Euphrates, the ministry had to boost the river flow with the waters of the Tigris and the al-Tharthar reservoir.

It should be noted that the Turkish Government built a number of dams and reservoirs on the fountainheads of the Euphrates and the Tigris and began storing water at the expense of ratios allocated for Iraq and Syria under international agreements and conventions on utilization of joint rivers.

Health Supplies

JN1308144391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id says that the unjust siege the United States and its allies are trying to maintain on Iraq stands as the ugliest crime in modern history.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the minister noted that Iraqi hospitals and medical centers face acute shortages of medicines and anesthetics as a result of the economic siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

He stressed that it is extremely difficult to provide chlorine for water treatment because the storage tanks

were destroyed by the planes of the 30-state aggression and hired agents from across the border.

The health minister called on international and humanitarian organizations around the world to work seriously for the lifting of the economic siege that threatens the Iraqi people, particularly children, women, and the elderly with death as a result of the acute shortage in food and medicine.

Building Materials

NC1208133991 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 12 (AFP)—Iraq will soon experience serious shortages of materials for post-war reconstruction, the Iraqi minister of housing and construction told Agence France-Presse Monday.

Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad said his ministry was only working at 30 percent capacity due to lack of building materials, which cannot be imported under a United Nations embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait last August.

"We have almost exhausted (our) reconstruction materials," al-Ahmad said. "We are looking for substitutes, but when we find them after great difficulties they can only be used for limited tasks and lead to poor results." The primary need is for metal rods and bridge supports, the minister said, adding that 48 bridges had been repaired out of the 124 destroyed by anti-Iraqi coalition forces in January and February.

Other crippling shortages were in spare parts and tires for construction vehicles, of which some 2,400—90 percent of the ministry's facilities—were out of order, he said. Al-Ahmad condemned a U.N. Security Council draft resolution that would permit Baghdad to sell its oil periodically if the revenue were placed in a U.N.-supervised account for the purchase of medical and food supplies. "The draft resolution places Iraq in a position of dependence," al-Ahmad said.

Sanctions Expose Falsity of Human Rights Claims

JN1108193591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with European Parliament member Peter Shansel, who is now visiting Iraq. The trade minister said that the continuation of the economic blockade imposed on the people of Iraq has clearly revealed to the entire world the falsehood of allegations by America and its allies regarding international legitimacy and human rights. The trade minister noted that the French draft resolution presented to the Security Council is a return to old colonialism and its evil designs.

Dr. Salih reviewed the Ministry's efforts to supply Iraqi citizens and to Arabs and foreigners who reside in Iraq with staple foodstuffs and to distribute them on the basis of ration cards.

Opposition Reports Attempt To Kill Police Chief

NC1208135491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] People close to [Saddam's son] 'Udayy Saddam Husayn are believed to have been behind the assassination attempt against Major General 'Abd-al-Muhsin Khalil, director general of the police force. The attack, which took place as Maj. Gen. Khalil was leaving the office of Baghdad Governor Khalid al-Rashid, is thought to be connected with the struggle for control of smuggling operations. Sources close to the defeated regime have asserted that police detained two members of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn's apparatus for their role in the attempt.

Salah Khalaf's Son Reportedly Arrested

NC1108142091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-WAHDAH reported today that the eldest son of slain Palestinian official Salah Khalaf was arrested by the forces of the defeated tyrant's regime during the occupation of Kuwait because of his father's opposition to the invasion.

The paper asserted that Iyad Khalaf was carrying a revolver and wearing Kuwaiti national dress at the time of his arrest, but did not say why he was armed. Upon learning of his son's arrest, Salah Khalaf notified Iraqi authorities through the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad that this would not make him change his stand on the occupation of Kuwait.

AL-WAHDAH adds that Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] denounced Saddam Husayn's linking of the Palestinian issue and the occupation of Kuwait. He also told the conquered regime that he had advised Palestinians residing in Kuwait not to cooperate with the tyrant's regime and to expect that Kuwait's legitimate government would be restored.

The paper notes that Salah Khalaf was assassinated in Tunis shortly thereafter.

Committee Urges World To Lift Blockade

JN1208124291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0654 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—The national Iraqi committee for combating high prices and monopoly has warned that disease, starvation, and death are knocking at the door of every Iraqi family, and that the blockade is killing thousands of innocent citizens.

In an appeal to peoples of the world, the committee warned that Iraq is being subjected to the atrocities of the blockade

although it had honored all its obligations and accepted all relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

In its appeal, the committee urged the world public to shoulder its responsibility toward lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and its people.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Dr. Raji 'Abbas al-Tikriti, chairman of the committee and doyen of the Iraqi doctors, said that the 30-state aggression against Iraq and the continued economic blockade has led to a tangible increase in the number of deaths, especially among children, women, the elderly, and ill people as a result of the ban imposed on the importation of milk, food, medicine, and other basic human materials that are necessary for life. He said the blockade had also caused the death of tens of thousands of children and ailing people and the spread of epidemics and diseases such as cholera, typhoid, rickets, and cancer because of the lack of vaccines and the unavailability of the required materials and equipment for the sterilization of drinking water.

He indicated that the electrical current had not been restored to large areas of Iraqi cities and villages. In addition, he noted, the damaged sewage system is seriously affecting the environment and public health.

He explained that the economic embargo has begun to have grave effects as a result of the depletion of the raw materials that feed local industries, especially food and medical industries, and the mounting unemployment. Meanwhile, the entire population's living standards and income are seriously declining while prices are soaring and the purchasing power is diminishing.

Paper Lists Commanders Received by Saddam

JN1008173391 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] Baghdad, INA—The following are the names of the commanders received by leader President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, for their role in the liberation battles in the glorious al-Qadisiyah of Saddam. The list includes the posts they occupied during these battles:

1. Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan. He was a member of the Armed Forces General Command, supervisor of the Republican Guards, and official in charge of military industrialization.

2. Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal. He was a member of the General Command and minister of state for military affairs.

3. Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi. He was commander of the Special 1st Army Corps.

4. Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Mu'ini. He was assistant chief of staff for administration affairs.

5. Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji. He was a member of the General Command and Army chief of staff. (He did not attend the meeting because of illness)

6. Staff General Husayn Rashid. He was a member of the Armed Forces General Command and assistant chief of staff for operations.

7. Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Futayh al-Rawi. He was commander of the Republican Guards.

8. Lieutenant General Pilot Hamid Sha'ban. He was member of the Armed Forces General Command and commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

9. Staff Lieutenant General 'Ala' Kazim al-Jinabi. He was secretary of the Armed Forces General Command.

10. Staff Lieutenant General Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri. He was a member of the Armed Forces General Command and chief of Military Intelligence.

11. Staff Lieutenant General Diya'-al-Din Jamal. He was assistant chief of staff for logistics.

12. Staff Lieutenant General Ni'mah Faris. He was assistant chief of staff for training.

13. Staff Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid. He was commander of the 7th Army Corps. (He did not attend the meeting because of illness)

14. Staff Lieutenant General Salah 'Abbud. He was commander of the 3d Army Corps.

15. Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Khalil Zaki. He was commander of the 5th Army Corps and then the 4th Army Corps.

16. Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir. He was commander of the 4th Army Corps and then the 7th Army Corps.

17. Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Ahmad. He was commander of the 1st Army Corps.

18. Staff Lieutenant General Yunus Muhammad al-Dharb. He was planning director and commander of the 5th Army Corps.

19. Staff Lieutenant General Pilot al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali. He was chief of Army Aviation.

20. Staff Major General Kamil Sajit. He was commander of the 2d Army Corps.

21. Staff Major General Yaljin 'Umar 'Adil. He was commander of the 6th Army Corps.

22. Staff Major General Najm-al-Din 'Abdallah Muhammad. He was chief of military tactics and acting planning director.

23. Staff Major General Pilot Muzahim Sa'b. He was chief of air training.

24. Staff Navy Major General Ghalib Muhammad Hassun. He was commander of the Naval Force and Coastal Guards.

25. 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin. He was chief of Political Guidance, the military spokesman, and editor in chief of AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Armed Forces.

Reports, Interviews on Hostage Negotiations

Officials Arrive in Geneva

TA1408140491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The two Israeli representatives, Uri Lubrani and Uri Slonim, arrived in Geneva this afternoon to continue discussions with the UN secretary general on the POW exchange deal. In reply to a question on how long he will stay in Geneva this time, Lubrani said: As long as is needed to fulfill our task.

Our correspondent notes that the two Israeli representatives will demand that they first get information on the fate of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] POW and MIA soldiers before any step is made. At the same time, they are authorized to express a willingness to be flexible.

Lubrani, Others on Developments

TA1408191091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Senior sources in Jerusalem say this evening that, as far as Israel is concerned, there is nothing new to report on the hostage issue. Following the meeting in Geneva between the UN secretary general and the Israeli negotiating team, Israel still persists in its position that the detainees it is holding will not be released before solid and clear information is received about the fate of the seven POW's and MIA's in Lebanon. Our correspondent in Geneva Yo'av Tocker reports.

[Begin recording] [Tocker] [passage omitted] Following the meeting with the UN secretary general, Mr. Lubrani said the Israeli team did not receive new information about the seven POW's and MIA's in Lebanon, nor was he surprised by the fact that such information was not available. We have confidence in the UN secretary general and are sure progress can be made, Mr. Lubrani said, adding that this should be done with a low profile and not through the media.

[Lubrani] We brought the Israeli Government's response to the UN secretary general. Our impression is that he is pleased with our answer and that he can now promote the issue in his own way, and quickly—I hope—but with a lower profile.

[Tocker] When you say quickly, what time frame are you talking about?

[Lubrani] I cannot talk of days or weeks. We hope matters will move very fast, but any assumption as to how long this will take would not be responsible.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think matters will continue in Geneva?

[Lubrani] I do not think so.

[Tocker] Is the UN secretary general relaying what you told him to the other party now? Is that how things will be done?

[Lubrani] I think so, but it is the secretary who will know what to do with what we relayed to him. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israel is flatly denying reports and declarations emanating from Geneva that the release of Lebanese detainees is imminent, and expected even this week. Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, announced a short while ago that Israel continues to demand clear information about the fate of the POW's and MIA's first. The Prime Minister's Office is not reacting to reports on this issue. The desire is to give as little publicity to this issue as possible, so as not to hinder the efforts being made. At the same time, our correspondent has learned from senior sources that for the time being no information that can change the situation has been received from Geneva. Israel will be prepared to make the gesture of releasing detainees only in exchange for our people or information about them.

Shamir—Talks Could Last 'Long Time'

TA1508110091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a short while ago that Israel would be willing to do everything to win the return of its POW's and MIA's. The prime minister nevertheless noted that Israel has still not received any information on its missing or captive soldiers, and that the negotiations for their release may drag on for a long time. Our correspondent Yaron Kulas spoke with Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Begin recording] [Kulas] One must also take into account the possibility that the negotiations on the release of the hostages and the POW's may take a long time. It will be surprising if they end quickly. That statement was made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir the day after the second meeting between the Israeli negotiations team and the UN secretary general in Geneva. Speaking at a news conference at the presidential residence with foreign correspondents after the installation of the Bank of Israel commissioner, the prime minister said that Israel would be willing to do everything to release the prisoners.

[Shamir, in English] Israel is willing to do everything in order to get the release of its prisoners.

[Kulas] We asked the prime minister whether Israel now had more information on the situation of the POW's and MIA's.

[Shamir, in Hebrew through end of interview] No, still not. We are happy, however, that serious efforts are being made.

[Kulas] Do you think that this will be a short process, or could it take weeks and months?

[Shamir] Nobody can guess that. One must be ready for anything. The main thing is that there be results.

[Kulas] Is Israel ready to make any gesture in return for information? To release some of the detainees it is holding, for example?

[Shamir] That is part of the negotiations.

[Kulas] Do you feel more encouraged than you were a few days ago by the updated information you received from the talks with the UN secretary general?

[Shamir] It is still too early to say. [end recording]

Iranians, Arabs To Give Information

TA1508052691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 91 p 3

[Report by special correspondent in Geneva Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Excerpt] All the Arab and Iranian elements who are holding Israeli prisoners, or have information about their fate, have already advised the UN secretary general that they agree in principle to give the information to the secretary general, who would pass it on to Israel. They are also ready to furnish proof of the information, although the nature of the proof has not been ascertained so far. These facts came last night from a senior source at the United Nations in Geneva.

The source added that yesterday the Israeli representatives—Uri Lubrani, Yohanan Bein, and Uri Slonim—supplied exact specifications of the "far-reaching" remuneration Israel is willing to give for the information and the proof.

After his meeting with the Israeli representatives, the UN secretary general immediately contacted Tehran and his representative in Damascus, whom he apprised of what he had heard from the Israeli team. In an initial reaction, Tehran claimed it possessed no information about navigator Ron Arad.

In the meeting with the secretary general, Israel demanded that the media profile of the contacts be lowered. It was agreed that the UN secretary general and the Israeli representatives would wait a few days for the reaction of the Iranians, Syrians, and Palestinians (Lubrani and Bein are staying on in Geneva,) and if the reaction is affirmative, they will enter secret negotiations over the technical details of the transfer of information to Israel and of methods of ascertaining its veracity.

The senior source, who works for the UN administration, said that the Iranians, Hizballah, Syrians, Ahmad Jibril, and Nayif Hawatimah announced at the beginning of this week that they have information on some of the prisoners and that they are holding several living prisoners.

They relayed the information to the United Nations *without specifying which prisoners were alive. The Iranian* ambassador informed the UN secretary general of these facts on behalf of his country and on behalf of Hizballah. The Syrians and the Palestinian organizations promised to relay the information to the UN secretary general's representative in Damascus, who left for Geneva last night. "The delay in obtaining the information was caused by the Iranians' and the Arabs' demand to know what they were to receive from Israel in exchange for providing information and proof," said the source. He added: "We think it will take a few days before there is a breakthrough."

Israel demands that the International Red Cross [IRC] or UN representatives check independently all information given to the UN secretary general. The Israeli representatives demanded "a clear sign of life" from the prisoners still alive and concrete information accompanied by proof on those who were killed. In exchange, Israel is ready to do the following, according to sources:

A. Allow the IRC to visit al-Khiyam Prison, as well as the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees who had been captured in Lebanon and are held in Israeli prisons.
B. Supply detailed lists of candidates for release.
C. Make a "generous" gesture the nature of which was not specified in the meeting; however, the UN secretary general was impressed that Israel was speaking of the release of a limited number—presumably several dozen—of Lebanese detainees, if the information provided by the other side is full and firm. [passage omitted]

Arens Aide Denies Pending Release of Lebanese

TA1408164291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1630 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] In reaction to published reports, Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, has just said that there is no truth in the reports alleging that Israel will free Lebanese detainees within the next few days.

Arens—No Credence to Jibril Remarks

TA1508124891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel today does not have any more information on its POW's and MIA's than it had a week or two ago. There is a lot of disinformation going around. One should not give any credence whatsoever to statements made by Ahmad Jibril, and he is not the one to address for information on our soldiers.

Arens said that the detainees Israel is holding are the only bargaining chip that Israel, and the entire world, have in their possession. The defense minister was speaking at a contractors convention in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reported his remarks.

Netanyahu on Jibril Statement

TA1408145991 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Rafi Reshef; Netanyahu in the Jerusalem studio, Reshef in Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Reshef] Good evening, Mr. Netanyahu. Has anything changed since our last meeting?

[Netanyahu] I cannot say yet. There was some announcement by Ahmad Jibril that signifies a kind of willingness on his part, certainly on the part of Syria, which, to say the least, influenced him to relay bits and pieces of information. This is in no way what we are waiting for.

[Reshef] Do you refer to the claim he made to a CNN reporter in Damascus that he knows of three POW's held alive by the Hizballah?

[Netanyahu] If he knows that, it can be easily proved. They can be put them in front of a camera holding a newspaper with today's date. Then we will have definite information. Look, our policy is no secret, and we need not restate it every hour or so. What we said is simple, and I will say it again: We are willing to make a deal to exchange our soldiers for the Lebanese detainees we are holding. We will not be able to make any move before we get reliable, clear, and updated information about the fate of our POW's in Lebanon. Once we get that information, we will make those gestures everybody is talking about.

[Reshef] Meaning that we are not even willing to make a symbolic gesture of goodwill before we get the information—for example, the release of several insignificant detainees?

[Netanyahu] We have already done that, and we did not get any reaction. If we make this gesture, they will ask for another. We made our position clear, and I have just repeated it. Many people are listening to us now, and I believe that our position is absolutely clear.

[Reshef] We heard the UN secretary general saying that he is still hopeful. Are we under international pressure these days?

[Netanyahu] There is certain pressure, naturally. I must make this clear: There is no U.S. pressure, but other parties are applying some pressure on us. However, I am not impressed by this pressure. [passage omitted]

[Reshef] So, as a matter of fact we have not moved at all. They are still asking for a gesture; we are still asking for signs of life.

[Netanyahu] Yes, but from time to time we hear half a signal. We will insist on information.

[Reshef] What is this half signal, if I may ask?

[Netanyahu] It is the Jibril remark, which, as I said before, is not accidental. He is operating out of Damascus, under Syrian cover. This is some kind of signal, but it is only an initial signal that does not contain the information we are asking for. There is no doubt in my mind, however, that if we adhere to our position the way we do, we will attain results, providing pressure continues to be applied in the right direction.

[Reshef] Binyamin Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Amal Man Termed 'Bargaining Chip'

TA1508084091 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 91 p1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] Jawad Kasfi [name as published] is another bargaining chip Israel holds, in addition to Shaykh 'Ubayd. Kasfi was captured and brought to Israel several months after the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd in the fall of 1989.

Kasfi, who was captured near Beirut, was one of the leaders of the Shiite Amal Movement and one of the heads of that organization's military arm in south Lebanon. Although Amal accused Israel of abducting Kasfi, it was not certain that Kasfi was in fact being held in Israel.

Meridor on Syrians, Need To Retain Golan

TA1008062091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Aug 91 p B3

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Menahem Rahat; date and place not given]

[Text] [Rahat] Do you really believe that we are drawing nearer to peace this time?

[Meridor] We desire a peace that is neither tactical nor political. For Israel this is a profound and permanent interest. We must look for the opportunity to promote peace. I have no doubt that recent developments are compatible with an attempt to try and promote the peace process. I still do not know whether we will be successful or not.

[Rahat] What has changed?

[Meridor] There have been global changes. The Soviet Union has lost its standing as the Arabs' patron. The United States is to a great extent the dominant superpower. The Arabs understand that and that is why some of them have done some rethinking. The Eastern front threatening Israel received a severe blow in the Gulf war. It is easier for us to negotiate with this front, which poses less of a threat. The PLO, our archenemy, has fallen in standing and power. It is easier for us to negotiate when the PLO is weaker than before. The Arabs of Judaea,

Samaria, and the Gaza Strip tried to force our hand with the intifadah and believed that Saddam Husayn would follow in the footsteps of Salah al-Din. Reality gave them a rude awakening. I think that following all the frustration, some of them are taking a fresh look at things.

Under these conditions, it was easier for us to accept the U.S. proposal. Our agreements with the Americans, which we hope and believe will be kept, give us a good opening position. Whether or not we succeed in moving the process forward depends a great deal on how wisely we negotiate, and on our ability to say "no" to things we must not accept and to show enough flexibility on less important issues. If the United States uses its new standing in the Arab world and brings the Arabs to the negotiating table, then we may be on the verge of turning over a new leaf. If it reverts to old formulas, we will not make much progress.

[Rahat] How does all this fit in with the statement you made only three months ago that you find no signs of flexibility in Syria?

[Meridor] I must admit that there have recently been signs that Syria is speaking in a different voice. It is still too early to judge whether this means that there have been any changes in its basic position; however, there is no doubt that today the Syrians are willing to say things they would not have uttered three months ago. They say that they are ready to negotiate with us. The important question is whether the Syrians are ready to hold negotiations with the aim of signing a peace agreement with Israel. We have yet to hear this from them. Al-Asad uses formulas such as a comprehensive settlement and speaks of a peaceful resolution of the conflict. That will be the first important point we will raise in the talks with the Syrians: What are we aiming for?

[Rahat] And will we discontinue the talks if we do not get a clear answer that they want real peace?

[Meridor] We must know what we are talking about and whether we are headed toward peace or not. I think that is a very important question that must be clarified, and I hope that the matter will be clarified very quickly and that we shall hear whether Syria is ready to move toward peace.

[Rahat] We will not go for less than peace with Syria?

[Meridor] We want to reach peace agreements in the present process, and that has always been our declared aim. One must remember that when al-Sadat came to Jerusalem he presented tough conditions, not just with regard to the Sinai Peninsula but also on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. He spoke about withdrawals that we never agreed to. He was willing to sign a peace agreement with us, however, and to speak to us directly. Al-Sadat came to Jerusalem, al-Asad goes to Washington. Al-Sadat spoke to us, al-Asad talks to the Americans. Al-Sadat spoke of a peace agreement with Israel, al-Asad talks about resolving the conflict. There are big differences, and everything must be examined over the coming months.

[Rahat] Nevertheless, the prime minister compared al-Asad to al-Sadat.

[Meridor] I only wish he was alive to hear this, but from a historical perspective, al-Sadat was one of the first leaders in the Arab world to read the international map correctly and realize that the Soviet Union was a broken reed of a staff. He was the first leader to make the turn to the West that also led to the peace agreement with Israel. Al-Asad, 14 years after 1977, is saying things that are worth examining in order to see whether he is taking the same path.

[Rahat] Do you think the United States is treating us fairly, or is this perhaps another Baker turkey hunt?

[Meridor] I will not give out grades; however, this administration is undoubtedly different than the previous one. If we take a look at the nations of the world, I cannot see any country with which we have better relations than the United States. We have differences and we have always had them. The more progress we make, the more disagreements will crop up. This is not new. We have different opinions regarding borders and other issues. I believe that the United States will keep its agreements with us and be an impartial mediator.

[Rahat] What do you think of Sharon's statements, that the game is fixed, that the negotiations are being handled in an amateurish fashion, that we have made a series of unrewarded concessions, that the public is being hoodwinked, and so forth?

[Meridor] First of all, I do not want to deal with statements made by cabinet ministers. This smacks of unjustified self-flagellation. We have made very significant accomplishments as a result of our steadfastness and the policies we have adopted recently. The fact that Syria is ready to join these talks and the fact that we have secured agreements with the United States on a move that actually follows the Camp David format, and an understanding that the PLO is out of the process—all this bears witness to Israel's accomplishments and to the Israeli Government's wise policy. As for the statements that were made, any minister who fully endorses the government's policy as I do would certainly reject those remarks. Whoever takes exception to the government's policy has a problem.

[Rahat] What should he do?

[Meridor] I do not distribute advice, but it is quite clear.

[Rahat] But some people are saying that we did not even make elementary and vital demands, such as a halt to Syria's military buildup which would prove it means peace, or the removal of the various PLO headquarters in the Arab countries.

[Meridor] I do not know if a move toward peace will be the result of the process we are starting now, but what would have happened had we told Egypt in 1977: We are not willing to launch any move with you until you fulfill certain conditions: Stop purchasing arms, close down this or that office, and do this or that. All these demands are legitimate and very important and we should make them, but we never set preconditions for negotiations. When someone comes and says: I am ready to talk to you without preconditions, and I do not demand that you promise territories for peace in advance, am I supposed to tell him that I will not come until he promises to fulfill certain conditions? I do not think that would be a correct policy.

[Rahat] And if it transpires that the Syrians want real peace, but at the price of withdrawing from the Golan Heights, would you go for it?

[Meridor] There is a great difference between the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. Geographically, topographically, the time that has gone by. We have extended Israeli law to the Golan Heights, and I therefore do not think we should follow the Sinai precedent. I am also suggesting we refrain from playing chess with ourselves. If everything goes right, we will come to the negotiations and present our position, which is: no Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The great achievement of the present move is that we can begin negotiations in spite of that position. The Syrians are aware of our position but are still coming to the talks. This is important. This was not the case in the past.

[Rahat] You saw the Golan Heights during the war out of the sights of a tank's gun.

[Meridor] In the Yom Kippur War I fought in a tank on the Golan Heights. We went up the Golan Heights on the early evening of 6 October from Arik's Bridge toward Husayniyah and al-Yahudiyah, and I was injured not far from Qaze's farm. I did reserve duty there for many years, a few weeks every year. But I am not the only one who fought up there, and my opinions on the Golan Heights are not clouded by my personal experience. I take a very clearheaded view. I know Mount Hermon and the lines from the mountain that lead straight down to Haroqad [name as published] in the southern part of the Golan Heights. I recognize the strategic importance of the Golan Heights and I know what lies on the other side —and can therefore draw the appropriate conclusions. Anybody who goes up on the Heights, climbs from 'En Gev to Susita, or to 'En Zivan or Merom Golan, or sits on the Hermon or Tel Avital and looks around, will immediately understand the tremendous importance of this area to Israel's security.

[Rahat] Should the borders stay as they are now on the Golan Heights?

[Meridor] Is there any doubt?

[Rahat] If not territories, what will we offer them?

[Meridor] We will offer to talk peace, and all the rest will be discussed in the course of the negotiations.

[Rahat] The formula of "territories for peace" is not your motto?

[Meridor] Certainly not. One can also present things the opposite way around: If one must give up territory for peace, what territories are the Arabs willing to give up for peace? Peace will be lasting only if both parties have an interest in maintaining it, but not if one side only considers it a payment for territory. I am not ignoring the fact that there is a dispute over the borders and that this issue must be resolved, but to decide that territories are the price for peace is to take the wrong attitude toward peace.

[Rahat] In the meantime, the Nahal Brigade settlement at Eshkelot was civilianized.

[Meridor] It would be inconceivable for us to adopt a decision that only Arabs are allowed to build houses in Judaea and Samaria while Jews are forbidden to do so. After all, no one is proposing that all settlement is halted, only Jewish settlement. There is a dispute about territory. Each side demands it for itself. If we announce in advance that the Arabs will be allowed to purchase and build in the territory, cultivate fields, construct settlements, while Jews cannot—that will actually be the end of the negotiations. We should not make such a concession. Anyone wanting fair negotiations cannot rule that this is forbidden to the Jews. The question is not an easy one and one should undoubtedly use prudence with regard to settlements, but the issue of Eshkelot has been greatly exaggerated. All that happened was that a Nahal Brigade settlement was civilianized.

[Rahat] Menahem Begin marked you as a possible heir to the leadership of the Likud and the government. What are you feelings on that?

[Meridor] I think that this matter has been exaggerated. We do not distribute legacies. We are a large and good group of good public servants who are considered leaders, and I do not want to say any more.

Commentary Favors Golan Demilitarization Plan

TA1108110891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 91 p B1

[Re'uven Pedatzur commentary: "With an Eye to the Political Echelon"]

[Text] In the middle of last week, while having no call to do so, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq still chose to declare in public that "the Golan is a vital component of Israel's security and the ability to defend it." He thus stated the position of the Army before a professional discussion was held on the matter and before the components of possible defense packages in future arrangements with Syria were worked out.

It is normally desirable for the chief of staff to express his opinion on security matters. Still, this time it is suspected that with this declaration Baraq falls more than a bit in line with the political echelon. Even before consenting to participate in the peace conference, the prime minister clearly declared that he opposes any concessions on the Golan.

Yitzhaq Shamir did not base his position on a professional analysis, nor did he bother to turn to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to ask for an examination of the military-security aspects involved in arrangements on the Syrian front. Fearing that they would be accused of exceeding authority, IDF personnel intentionally refrained from preparing a professional opinion on the future of the Golan, while now it is the IDF supreme commander who rose and presented an apparently professional but implicitly political position.

Baraq cannot claim he was unaware that he was expressing a position in an area of first-rate political sensitivity and at a particularly sensitive time. This chief of staff is sophisticated enough to realize the true meaning of his remarks. It would have been different had he been requested by his superiors to present the Army's position on the eve of entering negotiations. Then it would have been his duty to express his professional opinion about the possible alternatives in the security arrangements sphere. Still, it was Baraq himself who last week initiated his declaration on the future of the Golan, presenting his subordinates with a fait accompli.

"The IDF must not be part of the political argument on the future of the Golan," senior officers claim. "It is not its duty to extend professional support to one side or another of the political system. When asked to do so, the Army must examine the various options for security arrangements on the Golan and bring them before the decisionmakers."

As for the professional point, many senior elements actually contend that ceding the Golan will not necessarily affect the ability to defend Israel. In their estimation, Israel's security needs on this front may be met through demilitarization arrangements, introducing U.S. soldiers or observers into the Golan, the establishment of early warning stations, and additional security mechanisms.

It is exactly the present deployment on the Golan Heights that does not allow the IDF a minimum warning space. The two armies are facing each other at such a small distance that any westward movement by Syrian forces means a clash with the IDF within minutes. Early warning time in such a case is almost nil. Demilitarizing the Golan Heights will create an early warning space, much smaller than in the Sinai indeed, but still with potential. After all, the distance between al-Qunaytirah and Tiberias is precisely equal to the distance between Tiberias and al-Qunaytirah.

If the demilitarization element were enhanced by U.S. observers stationed on the Golan itself, this would amount to an important deterrent feature. A Syrian ruler who aspires to wage a war against Israel would probably hesitate before instructing his army to launch actions which may harm U.S. soldiers or civilians. To this one should add, of course, advanced early warning systems in stations manned by Israeli or other soldiers that would provide real-time intelligence information on developments deep inside Syrian territory; satellite services provided by the Americans; and other command and control mechanisms.

From the purely professional point of view, the IDF's withdrawal from the Golan and its demilitarization may yield quite a few security advantages, especially since it is not absolutely necessary to leave the entire area in a single move. It is possible to determine interim arrangements over years, with the IDF evacuating areas of the Heights gradually.

I do not know if the present chief of staff remembers this, but on 19 June 1967, a little over a week after the Six-Day War ended, the Israeli Cabinet ministers unanimously voted for a decision whereby "Israel offers the signing of a peace treaty with Syria on the basis of the international border and Israel's security needs." That cabinet resolution also specified the security needs: "Demilitarizing the Syrian plateau....and an absolute guarantee that the flow of water from the Jordan River sources into Israel will not be affected."

If the ministers of then-Prime Minister Eshkol's government—who made their decision against the background of the trauma of waiting on the eve of the Six-Day War—were still prepared to give up the entire Golan in return for peace, it is reasonable to assume they also believed Israel's security could be guaranteed through other means. What was true 24 years ago is all the more true today, at a time of sophisticated early warning systems, of a powerful Israeli Air Force, and especially of ballistic missiles which enable the Syrians to hit at Israel's soft belly without moving even a single tank on the Golan Heights.

Levi—Elections Talk Directed at Peace Process

TA1308085591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Aug 91 p 2

[Report by Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] From his vacation resort in the north, Foreign Minister David Levi attacked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's confidants yesterday, accusing them of spreading reports on possible early elections in order to torpedo the peace process. According to Levi, the Likud's success will lie in sanctifying the peace process, as he put it, and in its ability to complete its full term in power. He claimed that those people close to the prime minister who spread reports about early elections have nothing on which to base their claims. "The Likud is not running away from the peace process it initiated; any talk about early elections is tantamount to forsaking our initiative," Levi said. He noted that as far as the Likud is

concerned, complete success will be scored if elections are held at the scheduled time.

The foreign minister rejected various reports that his status has been eroded and that his relations with the prime minister are uneasy. He argued that these rumors, also spread by the prime minister's people, are baseless.

Qatzav, Soviet Counterpart Agree on Flights

TA1408153591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Direct flights of immigrants from the USSR to Israel will begin within several weeks. An agreement on this was reached a short while ago in Moscow in a meeting between Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav and his Soviet counterpart. Our correspondent Dan Miller has just entered the studio with the information:

[Miller] Yes, indeed, the transportation minister and Soviet Civil Aviation Minister Boris Panyukov agreed on direct charter flights of immigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel via a company that will be set up as a joint venture [last two words in English] by El Al and the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry. To repeat: The Israeli and Soviet ministers a short while ago signed a memorandum of understanding on that matter.

A Soviet delegation from Aeroflot will arrive in Israel next week to conclude details concerning the immigrants' direct flights. Arye Levin, Israel's consul in Moscow, also attended Minister Qatzav's talks. The direct flights can begin in a few weeks, after the technicalities involved are finalized.

The agreement signed today by Qatzav and Panyukov includes a decision on formulating an aviation accord between the two countries. The two ministers exchanged drafts of such an accord, the details of which will be discussed soon. A Soviet delegation will arrive in Israel in October for talks with the Civil Aviation Administration on the aviation accord, the preparation of which will be concluded during 1991.

The two ministers also formally ratified the commercial agreement signed between El Al and Aeroflot in December 1989. It was also agreed that El Al and Aeroflot will be formally given licenses to operate in the Soviet Union and Israel, respectively. The Soviets also agreed to give El Al rights to fly over the USSR, so as to shorten its route to the Far East.

In the meeting with Qatzav, the Soviet civil aviation minister announced that bilateral diplomatic relations will be established very soon. The Soviet minister expressed his country's aspiration to develop aviation, commercial, and tourism relations with Israel.

King Briefs Ambassadors on Deportees' Plight

JN1408161791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn received the ambassadors of the European Community, the United States, Japan, and Canada. He briefed them on the circumstances resulting from the deportation of Jordanians and Palestinians from Kuwait.

In the meeting, his majesty warned against being a silent bystander toward the flagrant violations of human rights in this region and the blatant violations of values and principles to which thousands of Arab citizens, particularly Jordanians and Palestinians deported from Kuwait, are being subjected.

His majesty said: There are limits to Jordan's ability to tolerate the pressures to which Jordan and Jordanian citizens are being exposed. He said that Jordan, on whose importance and vitality very few people in our world differ, expects to obtain help from everyone in order to cope with what it is facing today. His majesty called on all people of goodwill who are careful to promote human rights to take a courageous and open stand toward the flagrant and profound violations of the rights of Jordanians and Palestinians, particularly those who are being deported from Kuwait.

His majesty spoke about large groups of these citizens who are being thrown away along the borders with Iraq or transported to airports that refuse to receive them. Among these deportees are elderly people, children, students, and others, who need medical care. His majesty warned against imposing a blackout on events in this region, particularly since the war that was waged had been to implement international legitimacy, protect human rights, and emphasize the impermissibility of using violence to solve disputes.

His majesty said that Jordan, which is continuing to receive the third wave of displaced, deported, and expelled people, is asking the civilized world to be at the side of these human beings and support Jordan in extending the assistance that these deportees need. His majesty described the deportation to Jordan of Jordanian and Palestinian citizens as a human tragedy, saying: We expect an explanation from those who are creating this tragedy and we expect the civilized world to hear this explanation.

His majesty said: As we try to realize peace and stability in this region, we follow with pain the inhuman practices that we fear will wipe out our hopes to realize peace and stability. Such practices might be transformed into justification for violence that might overwhelm the entire region and dissipate the hopes of the region's people for their safety.

The meeting was attended by the Royal Court chief and the foreign minister.

Comments on Returnees

JN1408195391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Interview with King Husayn by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab on 14 August in Amman—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Your Majesty the King: By receiving yesterday the first group of Jordanian returnees from Kuwait, and by receiving today a number of foreign ambassadors to Amman, what message did you wish to address to the returnees and the world?

[Husayn] First, I do not believe this was the first group. And I was told they would arrive in Amman at 1000 yesterday, but they arrived after 2200.

In fact, I cannot describe my feelings while receiving them as they return to their families and brothers. I remember one lady who carried the holy Koran. She wanted to give it to me, but I asked her to keep it so that Almighty God would protect and help her. A little girl at the age of bloom had a smile on her face. She wanted to give me something she owned, a can of Pepsi. "Please uncle, accept this from me," she said. A lady said: "Praise be to God; we return to our homeland after 30 years."

Some of them are elderly people, on in years. The rest are women, young people, and children. When one looks at this group of people, one sees them as though they have not seen the sun for years. One also notices signs of fatigue and suffering on them all. This is an example of what is happening.

I was greatly touched. I, sleep, and nights are not on good terms. But I was unable to sleep a wink last night. I know that other groups arrived earlier. Among them were some people who showed signs of bestial torture. I also know that there are a number of our people in Iraq now who were driven from fraternal Kuwait; we have sent someone to help them. However, this country will continue to be truly Arab in its morality, humanity, and concern for performing its duty toward its sons and kinfolk whom we used to welcome and wait for during the good years. Now, they are coming back to us under these circumstances.

Jordanians have big hearts. Our task is to perform our duty as best we can. In our discussions, we now need to concentrate on.... [changes thought] And here I call on the men of religion, Christians and Muslims, brothers of one belief in the one and only God, and the guides, to abandon politics whose dimensions they might not fully understand, and abandon trivialities. I do not mean to generalize here. They should concentrate on the true and real meanings of religion, the doctrine, and the humanitarian dimension. Praise be to God that our consciences and hearts are alive.

I also heard what you did, that there are large numbers of our Iraqi brothers here too. Some of them cannot find

shelter. Some are sick. Some children have sought refuge with us. We have a great duty and the burden is heavy. However, it is a holy duty which our honor dictates we should bear and deal with this bitter reality. I am confident this state will not persist. Nevertheless, everyone must do what they can. I know that exploitation is not a characteristic of this nation. We must appreciate the circumstances of these kinfolk, brethren, and returnees, however, and do the impossible to alleviate their suffering. It is our duty as Arabs, Muslims, and human beings.

There remains the other dimension; naturally, I spoke with the ambassadors and it seems the region is not in the limelight now as it was a long while before, for over a year, during the regrettable events, from the moment they started to the very end. As regards the humanitarian dimension, it was my duty to talk to them and ask them all to convey this image to the highest authorities in their countries, as well as Jordan's determination to perform its humanitarian duty through its utmost resources and capabilities. I also asked them to do what they can to alleviate the suffering of these people. Frankly, I believe there is a huge duty. We are talking about pluralism, and democracy. At the same time, however, we need to start concentrating on the Arab person wherever he may be. A charter should be formulated and agreed upon to guarantee this human being's rights.

God will ensure our success.

[Dhiyab] Thank you, my lord.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Amman Jordan Television Network in English at 1900 GMT on 14 August broadcasts an interview with King Husayn by Maha al-Sha'ir in which the King says Jordanians are welcomed home. He then says some might wish to return to the occupied territories and adds: "Apparently Gazans with Egyptian identity cards are not permitted to go through Egypt to Gaza. If there is any way that we can figure out how they can pass through here and return home we will do what we can, if all the others respond to this need."]

U.S. Aides Leave After Contacts on Peace Talks

JN1308110991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—An American team sent here to prepare a memorandum of understanding on the proposed Middle East peace conference left Jordan Monday, diplomatic sources said.

The team, made up of Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Edmund Hull of the National Security Council, and Aaron Miller from the State Department, discussed matters related to Jordan's queries and clarifications about several elements in the peace process, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The three U.S. officials, who arrived here from Israel, have been informed of the Jordanian request of having assurances about the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to self-determination and clarifications about the status of Arab Jerusalem, according to the spokesman.

The three U.S. officials had met with Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi, two prominent Palestinian personalities, to discuss issues pertaining to the peace process.

According to the Foreign Ministry spokesman the three officials held talks with Jordanian officials at noon Monday before leaving for home.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman did not say who the American team met with in Amman. No details were immediately available.

Government sources said late Sunday after meeting the delegation that it was unlikely they would be able to draft the document during the 24-hour visit, Reuter reported.

"We do not have a memorandum but we will get it (eventually)," a senior official told the agency. "There are some differences of opinion... and there are discussions on the ideas."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the U.S. team's visit had focused on receiving Jordanian questions and explanations over the details of the peace process and assurances which Jordan is asking for.

It said Jordan wants assurances on Palestinian rights to land and self-determination plus other issues dealing with the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem.

Jordan backs the U.S. proposed conference as a means of securing Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in exchange for peace guarantees, in line with U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

Amal Leader: 'Conditions Are Ideal' for Release

LD1408130991 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 14, IRNA—A Lebanese leader has said conditions are ideal for the release of all hostages whether those in Lebanon or in occupied Palestine, and any hesitation in freedom for the Zionist-held hostages would bring to a halt the setting free of Western detainees in Lebanon. Leader of the Islamic Amal movement, Husayn al-Musawi, better known as "Abu-Hisham" said "the issue of the Western hostages is in no way connected to the Hizballah of Lebanon and any decision regarding their release is outside the power of Hizballah." He added that the release of Israeli soldiers captured by the Islamic Resistance Movement can be secured if Washington exerts pressure on the Zionist regime to set free all Mojahedin languishing in its prisons. Al-Musawi described the letter sent to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by the Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO), which let go two of the Western detainees last week, as an assignment for the U.N. chief to act as mediator in the hostage issue. "From now on, everything depends on the honesty of the West. One can be hopeful of the settlement of the hostage issue if for only once the U.S. proves its honesty in pressuring Israel," he believed. But, he warned: "If the U.S. continues to mislead public opinion and encourage Israel in killing Muslims and committing crimes against them, the scene will remain open to all sorts of possibilities." On the fate of the longest held hostages in Lebanon, the four Iranians kidnapped by the Christian phalangists in 1982, Al-Musawi deplored that the various phalangist factions are refraining to divulge the facts because of their infighting, "and it is not yet clear whether the Iranians are still in eastern Beirut or have been moved to occupied Palestine." Anyhow, he reiterated, "they ought to be set free before others if they are still alive." Abu-Hisham condemned the recent abduction of Frenchman Jerome Leyraud and described the act as "irresponsible". He said he was glad to hear of Leyraud's release within a few days. The Lebanese Muslim leader dismissed the claims of certain Lebanese officials that Leyraud was set free because of military pressures, and said the Frenchman's release was secured due to "sincere and true cooperation between the Muslim brothers and Syrian authorities." Stressing that the ball is now in the U.S. court, Al-Musawi ruled out negotiations with the U.S. or the Zionist state, and said "there are mediators including the U.N. chief and certain related countries who can help bring an end to the crisis once and for all."

Interior Minister Confers With PLO Delegation

NC1408112391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Interior Minister Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib today received a PLO delegation made up of Salih Zaydan, Abu-Khalid al-Shamal, Abu-al-'Ala', and Ahmad Murad.

After the meeting, Zaydan said: We have discussed points that affect the Palestinian situation in Lebanon. We stressed the need to expedite the holding of the dialogue with the Lebanese ministerial committee on the civil and social rights, particularly because the Palestinians already have prepared a memorandum on this.

Zaydan added that the delegation also stressed the need to release the detainees and to end the emergency procedures around the Tyre camps. We also raised the issue of those Palestinians displaced from their camps, and we asked that this issue be handled in accordance with the cabinet decision regarding the return of all evacuees to their homes, Zaydan said.

The PLO member said that the delegation emphasized continued support for the Lebanese national accord, the legitimate government's decision to consolidate its authority over all Lebanon, and the efforts to implement Resolution 425. Zaydan said Minister al-Khatib has shown an understanding of all issues discussed.

Buwayz Receives Baker Note; Comments on Hostages

NC1308123691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker has paid tribute to Lebanon for its efforts in the service of peace and in the release of the hostages. Crocker said he discussed with Foreign Minister Buwayz bilateral relations, the Middle East peace plan, and the hostages issue. He expressed the hope that all the hostages will be released soon without conditions.

Ambassador Crocker handed Minister Buwayz a written message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker regarding the issue of the international Middle East peace conference.

Speaking to reporters about the contents of the message, the minister said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] He briefed me on the latest developments regarding the peace conference and handed me a written message from Secretary of State Baker concerning this issue. We agreed to carefully follow up all the stages pertaining to this conference. He, of course, raised the issue of the hostages. We briefed him on the Lebanese position, which is harmed by the hostages issue. In the wake of the efforts which we are still making to speed up a solution to the hostages problem, we briefed him on our feeling and views that this issue is on the verge of a concrete solution. [end recording]

Envoy Conveys Bessmertnykh's Message To Buwayz

NC1408115791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev today conveyed an oral message to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz from his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Ilichev stated that the message is part of the constant coordination and consultations between the two countries on developments in the Middle East and the ongoing efforts to hold the peace conference.

Ilichev added that the ongoing preparations for the peace conference have entered their final stage. He denied that the venue of the conference has been selected.

On the expected date for the Buwayz-Bessmertnykh meeting, Ilichev said: The meeting may be held during the 46th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Hizballah Reports Resistance, Israeli Activities

NC1508074691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Islamic resistance mujahidin groups attacked two positions held by the Zionist enemy and its agents in al-Hamra' and al-Bayyadah yesterday. A 15-minute clash involving automatic weapons and rockets ensued with the personnel manning the two positions, while enemy helicopters flew over the area.

Islamic resistance sources said that the enemy and his agents sustained heavy losses in the clash. The exact losses could not be determined because the enemy searched and established a security cordon around the area of the clash.

An Islamic resistance group detonated an explosive device as a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol was passing on the road leading to the Sujud position. All the patrol members were killed or wounded.

Resistance mujahidin also detonated an explosive device as a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol was passing on the road to Bayt Yahun, wounding all patrol members.

According to reports from the south, occupation forces and agent militiamen recently resorted to running motorized and foot patrols on the main roads and in the forests in the area extending from al-Surayri in the east up to Kafr Huna, including al-Qatranah, (Tallat Khazin), and (Mazra'at Jubayl). Extensive searches also were carried out at the entrances to some villages in the liberated areas.

The reports said agent militiamen blocked the Hasbayya-al-Hasbani main road for one hour, banning cars from passing and carrying out a search in the olive groves and the areas overlooking their position on Abu Qamhah hill. Meanwhile, personnel in several vehicles opened medium-caliber weapons fire on the al-Hasbani groves.

Those coming from the border strip have reported that an Israeli intelligence patrol entered the town of al-Surayri and roamed its streets. The patrol warned the inhabitants against sheltering or cooperating with the resistance fighters.

Israeli Troop Movements in South Reported

NC1508055391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] In the resisting south, Israeli troop concentrations have been spotted in the al-Hamra' and al-Bayyadah areas during the last 24 hours. A joint force of Israeli troops and agent Lahd militiamen advanced from the 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions toward Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyah.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces opened artillery and heavy machine-gun fire at Majdal Zun and al-Mansurah, causing only material damage.

Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Positions

NC1408110891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] REUTER has cited Islamic resistance sources as saying that a resistance group this morning attacked two positions jointly manned by Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd's militiamen in al-Bayyadah. A 15-minute clash with machine guns and antitank weapons ensued between the two sides. Helicopters dropped flares over the site of the clash.

Cabinet Discusses, Approves Amnesty Bill

NC1408201391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Statement by Information Minister Albert Mansur following cabinet meeting in Beirut on 14 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the president dealt with the hostage issue. The parties concerned in this matter were asked to give a final answer in the next cabinet session so that this issue can be resolved once and for all.

The cabinet then discussed the amnesty bill, approved it, and discussed topics on its agenda. The cabinet was able to accomplish most of the work. The most important event today was the allocation of 50 billion Lebanese pounds for the telephone department and 2.4 billion Lebanese pounds for the Beirut municipality. The cabinet also made a decision to close all the gambling and bingo houses effective today and decided that ministerial meetings will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. A study of the structure of the Economy Ministry will begin next Tuesday. We will keep you informed of the programs of every conclave. These are the results of today's cabinet meeting. [passage omitted]

Amnesty Debated; Could Affect Status of 'Awn

NC1508074991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The cabinet convened yesterday and adopted a number of decisions. The cabinet's decision approving

the amnesty bill, after introducing amendments to it, might benefit General Michel 'Awn. But 'Awn will remain subject to legal prosecution by the judiciary council. 'Awn also will remain subject to legal prosecution for financial and personal matters.

According to the bill and decree, Gen. 'Awn will be banned from carrying out any political activities in and outside Lebanon, because any such activities could be interpreted as contravening the conditions according to which he will be pardoned.

Meanwhile, the exemptions introduced to the bill concerning crimes involving the assassinations of politicians, diplomats, and religious figures, not included in the amnesty bill, were rejected by the Lebanese Forces—translated in Minister Roger Dib's withdrawal from the cabinet session. A number of ministers expressed rejections and reservations.

Minister Dib visited Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja', and Minister Sa'adah visited Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni concerning the issue. [passage omitted]

Minister Dib withdrew from the session to protest the approved wording of the amnesty bill. Sources close to Minister Dib said the bill's approval runs counter to the prevailing reconciliatory atmosphere. The source said urgent exchanges will take place before adopting the appropriate decision.

In a statement to Radio Free Lebanon, Minister Dib said he withdrew from the cabinet session because the amendments introduced to the amnesty bill include a clause banning officials and units of the Lebanese Forces who are represented in the government from benefiting from the general amnesty bill like all the other organizations, parties, and sides represented in the government. Minister Dib added that this would reopen wounds which the Lebanese are trying hard to heal and forget. Minister Dib denied any link between his withdrawal from the session and the issue of Gen. 'Awn.

In another statement to the newspaper AL-DIYAR, Minister Dib said that the aim of exemption, as contained in the bill, is to make it possible to legally prosecute Lebanese Forces and Phalangist elements. This, he added, is bound to reopen files which should be closed, and reopen old wounds. He added that this will undermine the atmosphere of reconciliation.

Minister Dib said the amnesty bill as presented by Minister Shawqi Fakhuri was accepted in its entirety. But the approval of the amendment, which exempted the crimes against politicians and religious figures, and which had not been referred to the judiciary council, was completely rejected by Dib and he withdrew from the session.

A leading source in the Lebanese Forces has declared that it will adopt the appropriate position. Asked if Minister Dib will resign, the source said anything is possible. The source stressed that the Lebanese Forces will not accept the bill as it is, and what happened is absolutely rejected. The source stressed that the amnesty bill was prepared by those who wish to peddle it.

It has been learned that the exemption of the crimes which were referred to the judiciary council before the approval of the bill has generated heated discussions. Minister Dib demanded that the clause concerning the exemptions be amended and threatened to tender his resignation. Prime Minister Karami, however, stressed his commitment to the approval of the exemptions as they are and threatened to resign if these exemptions are not approved as they are. Karami was supported by Minister Franjiyah.

No Visas To Be Issued to Iraqis

NC1508090691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has instructed the Lebanese Consulate in Baghdad not to issue entry visas to Iraqi citizens wishing to come to Beirut for summer vacation or to work.

Foreign Minister Receives Bessmertnykh's Letter

JN1408174391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Igor Melikhov, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus. Melikhov handed him a letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh dealing with some procedural matters relating to the peace conference.

Earlier today, al-Shar' received Vitaliy Churkin, director of Information Administration and official spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Jum'ah, director of information at the Foreign Ministry, and Igor Melikhov, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Discussions focused on the important role of Soviet media in englightening Soviet and international public opinion on Arab rights and the constructive position adopted by the Arabs for a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question on the basis of international legitimacy and UN resolutions, as well as exposing Israel's intransigent position toward the peace process.

British Send Thanks for Help With Hostages

JN1508055291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus—The British Government has expressed great gratitude for Syria's help in obtaining the release of British hostage John Mccarthy. This came in a letter to Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, from his British counterpart Douglas Hogg. In the letter, which Mr. Qaddur received from the British ambassador in Damascus, Mr. Hogg expresses Britain's great appreciation for the role Syria played and is playing to help release all the hostages.

French Thank Syria for Leyraud's Release

JN1408113891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has received a message of gratitude from the French Government for the effective efforts made by Syria in helping to secure the release of the French national Jerome Leyraud in Beirut.

Commentary on Israeli Resistance to Peace Moves

JN1408151391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: There is no disagreement among Arabs over the belief that Israel does not want a just and comprehensive settlement of the region's crisis, and that it is doing its utmost to blow apart President Bush's proposals and topple the proposed peace conference before it convenes.

Many in the world join the Arabs in this belief when they see Israel's rulers placing obstacles before international efforts, whether by rejecting a real Palestinian representation in the peace negotiations or by publicly announcing almost daily that they will not withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and will continue the policy of annexation and settlement.

However, the international community is determined to convene the peace conference at the set time. It clearly specified the general framework of negotiations—implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and exchanging land for peace.

It is very important for the Arabs, now that they have honestly and positively responded to the U.S. proposals, to preempt Israeli moves and facilitate the convening of the conference. They are the winners in all cases, whether the conference succeeds or fails. In the case of failure, the international community will be forced to learn lessons and deal with the issue of Israeli disobedience of international legitimacy.

Israel placed a series of conditions on participating in the peace conference. Their true objective is to indirectly force the Arabs not to participate. When Israel, for example, insists that the citizens of occupied Jerusalem cannot participate in the negotiations, and when it gives itself the right to veto the members of the Palestinian delegation, it is deliberately provoking the Palestinians where it hurts most, so that they will give up on the negotiations. The essential fact that destroys Israel's scheme is that every member of the participating Palestinian delegation represents the whole of Palestine and represents the Palestinians wherever they may be. They represent Nabulus, Ramallah, Tulkarm, the Gaza Strip, as well as Jerusalem. Every Arab participating in the peace process will focus on the Palestine question since it is the central cause of the nation and the essence of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Syria has repeatedly announced that Jerusalem comes before the Golan Heights and that the occupied Arab territories constitute a holy unit where there can be no bargaining over territory or forfeiting one territory for the sake of another. Israel will find itself confronting a united Arab front that firmly adheres to implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The two resolutions, as every one knows, call for full Israeli withdrawal proceeding from the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory through force and wars.

Syria firmly supports a true Palestinian representation. At the same time, it believes that the essence is what is important and basic. Although Syria and the Arabs have shown leniency regarding the procedural measures in response to international efforts, there can be no bargaining over or forfeiture of the essence. And by the

essence we mean the occupied territories and the Palestinian rights. The U.S. Administration, along with the international community, has adhered to realization of a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts. The U.S. Administration declared that Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are a part of the occupied territories and that the Zionist annexation decision was not recognized by Washington nor by any other international capitol. It has been considered null and void in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Every day Israel's leaders repeat that they will not withdraw from the Golan Heights and Jerusalem. In fact they say they will not withdraw from any of the occupied territories. Their motives behind these provocative stands are to push the Arabs to boycott the peace conference. Then, they can hold the Arab side responsible for hindering international efforts and continue the policy of settlement in the occupied territories. We believe that blocking the Israeli scheme and exposing the real nature of their aggressive and expansionist stand in front of the whole world through the peace conference, will greatly serve the Arab cause and convince many governments and people to change their stands to support Arab rights and contain Israel's injustice. It will also force the international community to put an end to an abnormal situation in accordance with internationally accepted principles and UN resolutions. Israel has no option in the proposed conference other than accepting or rejecting peace. Acceptance means withdrawing from the occupied territories and accepting Palestinian rights; rejection means confronting the international community and disobeying international legitimacy.

Hope Remains Despite 'Zionist Statements'

JN1408165591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Whether the Arabs, particularly Syria, take Israeli antipeace statements seriously, or whether they deal with these statements as part of the maneuvers and deceptive methods Israel has recently been openly using, we will continue to deal sincerely with international efforts out of our desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace, and our readiness to build a new Middle East, free of hotbeds of tension, and where security and peace prevail everywhere.

Now that Syria's positive reply to President Bush's message penetrated all of Israel's political fortifications, Israel cannot find any method to deal with political developments in the world, particularly in our region, except to escape by rushing forward. It took off its velvet gloves, with which it deceived several big international powers over the past decades, and revealed its primitive, ugly, and unpopular face that no longer has sympathizers. It declared that it will not return the Golan to its people and motherland, it will not withdraw from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, and will not accept a real Palestinian representation at the peace conference, in addition to the list of other rejections which it announces day and night, thus intentionally or unintentionally burying the peace conference even before its inauguration.

Logic dictates that if we deal seriously with this declared Zionist position and view it as the final limit of what Israel might do toward the peace conference, then we might as well publicly cancel all efforts exerted by us and the big international powers for consolidating the principles on which the peace conference will be held, especially UN resolutions—particularly 242 and 338. We might also tell Israel and the world that the question is essentially that of the occupied territories in Palestine and its Arab surroundings and the implementation of the UN resolutions concerning them in letter and spirit. As long as Israel is not concerned with this question, then on what basis would the peace conference be convened? What is the use of continuing to take further steps toward it? What is the benefit of negotiations on two extremely contradictory and irreconcilable positions?

However, out of our faith in peace and our desire to give all chances to the international community around us in order to enforce justice in this region and implement peace in a way that is no more secret to anyone, we will view these Zionist statements as exposed maneuvers to force the world to either abandon the idea of convening the conference altogether, or to receive support at the conference that enables it to keep all the Arab land it can and usurp all the rights it can, in implementation of its infamous expansionist and colonialist dream.

While we have no control over Israel's efforts to obstruct the peace conference, a matter which is the responsibility of Israel and the international powers to which we have facilitated all paths leading to the convening of the peace conference, the question of territory and rights is our own responsibility, which we will not relinquish or bargain over. We have no land for Israel to occupy at will.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister in Moscow En Route to Ghana

BK1508010491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1840 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 14 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil flew to Moscow Wednesday en route to the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Ghana, diplomats here said.

Wakil's trip abroad comes on the heels of intense diplomatic activity to seek an end to the dragging Afghan war following a new United Nations initiative in May.

The diplomats said the minister would have a medical checkup in Moscow before proceeding to Ghana.

4 Injured in 2d Rocket Attack on Kabul 14 Aug

LD1408171391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The warmongering extremists, provoked by the Pakistani militarists, today again fired four surface-to-surface missiles at the residential regions of Kabul City in continuation of their antinational and anti-Islamic actions while our Muslim and independent people are on the threshold of marking the 72d anniversary of the restoration of Afghanistan's independence. BAKHTAR'S military section reports that as a result of today's firing, four compatriots were injured. The condition of two of the injured is reported to be poor.

The warmongering extremists fired the lethal rockets from west of Kabul City while our compatriots were on their way home. Thousands of women and children were looking forward to the return of their bread-winners and heads of families. The rockets landed in wards three and seven of the city. Today's rockets were of the SAKAR type supplied by the Pakistani militarists to the warmongering extremists for waging genocide against our compatriots.

Yesterday warmongering extremists killed 21 Kabul city residents by firing six surface-to-surface rockets. They deprived many families of their heads, orphaned or widowed many women and children, and left many mothers bereft of their children. [passage omitted]

Commentator Criticizes Attack

LD1408223491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[By BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Excerpts] As our compatriots were informed through the country's mass media, yesterday, 13 August, criminal extremists once again created a bloody and frightening tragedy through launching long-range U.S. SAKAR-30 rockets against Kabul City citizens. As a result of the attack by the non-Muslim extremists more than 20 children, women and innocent men, who were going to their homes, were martyred and scores were wounded.

This bloody incident, which is no less tragic than the tragedy brought on the Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps by the Israelis, took place at a time when schoolchildren were going home and a number of our compatriots had left their daily jobs for home.

The missiles launched by the criminal extremists rained down on Kabul citizens yesterday afternoon in the 6th and 7th city wards. One of them hit a city bus in the Alaudin area along Darulaman road. It killed 20 children, women, and men. Scores of others were wounded.

According to reports a number of these missiles also hit neighboring residential areas, causing heavy loss of life and material.

This is not the first time that the extremists engaged in the massacre of our people. If one looks at the past actions of the criminal extremists, it becomes clear that the list of their crimes is very long. Including the murder of national personalities. They have not refrained from any crime against our people, among them the massacre of our Muslim people, an example of which is yesterday's tragedy; poisoning drinking water; and explosions in populated areas of the city, cinemas, restaurants, and markets. What is worth asking is why should the extremists then resort to such savage anti-Islamic and anti-human actions and what do they want to achieve through killing our compatriots? This is worth asking under the present conditions when war and murder have lost meaning and the majority of our people and the people of the world support the political solution of the question of Afghanistan. Undoubtedly, through these anti-Islamic and anti-Afghan actions, the extremists want to weaken the peace-seeking spirit of our people. They should know, however, that the people of Afghanistan will never forgive them and they cannot achieve anything else but shame for their actions. [passage omitted]

This tragic disaster saddened all the Muslim people of Afghanistan. The main question, however, is whether this firing of rockets and shedding of blood of innocent young and old Afghans by a handful of rogues and barbarous extremists does not arouse the humanitarian feelings and sentiments of those who irresponsibly put such lethal weapons at the disposal of the extremists, whereby they kill our innocent people? Those who claim to be defenders of human rights and shed crocodile tears for international amnesty, have they ever thought that their SAKAR and ballistic missiles, contrary to all legal norms, are being used against civilian targets in the cities of Afghanistan? Do they not know that the deeds of the extremists against the civilians, inspired by the Pakistan military intelligence service, are none other than terrorist actions? Why they do keep quiet about all these antihuman rights actions? We reach this conclusion that the real perpetrators of these terrorist actions in Afghanistan are those who put these lethal mass destructive weapons at the disposal of the rogues and extremists.

Now the world's public can judge who is violating human rights in Afghanistan in the most ugly terrorist fashion. And these people must answer for the killing of innocent people in Afghanistan.

Report on Military Operations in Ghowr, Herat

LD1408204291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The centers and positions of the Gulbuddin extremist group in Argah Region, Ghowr Province, were subjected to crushing blows inflicted by the Armed Forces yesterday.

As a result of this action a number of the extremists, including Abdurrahman and Mola Saduddin who are two ringleaders of the extremists, were crushed. Two strong positions, several weapons, and a large amount of their ammunition were destroyed.

A number of the extremists were crushed as a result of an ambush carried out by the Armed Forces yesterday around Herat Province.

According to BAKHTAR's military section, one rocket launcher together with 50 shells, seven light machineguns together with 29 boxes of ammunition, and nine pairs of binoculars were seized.

Eight men attached to the Gulbuddin extremist group and the Jamiat Formation were killed as a result of an armed clash which took place between the two rival groups in Arakash Region, Laghman Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that during this clash, which took place following retaliatory actions by the rival groups against each other, dozens of men from the belligerent parties were injured.

Army Captures Rebel Missiles in Paghman

LD1408175391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] In order to forestall terrorist action by the extremists, the units and subunits of the general command of Kabul Garrison today carried out mopping up operations in Dara-e Zargar Region, Paghman District.

According to the BAKHTAR military section as a result of this action 17 surface-to-surface missiles of SAKAR-16 type, Mozael-type rockets, 72 rocket launcher projectiles, and 48 artillery shells were captured.

According to another report 20 surface-to-surface missiles of SAKAR-30 type were discovered and seized today around Paghman district by the organs of the Ministry of State Security.

According to the BAKHTAR military section these missiles were deployed in this district for the purpose of attacking residential areas of Kabul city. The timely discovery of these missiles thus prevented a tragedy.

Najibullah Meets With Tribal Leaders 14 Aug

LD1408215791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The press office of the presidency told BAKHTAR that esteemed President Najibullah received the jerga of elders and dignitaries of the Zazi tribe of Paktia Province at the presidency headquarters this morning. The jerga started with a recitation of verses from the Koran. Then Sarjang Zazai, minister of Borders, introduced members of the jerga to the esteemed president. Following this, esteemed President Najibullah spoke in detail and comprehensively about the country's general political-military situation and he emphasized the role of the elders and dignitaries in ensuring security and the cessation of hostilities and creating opportunities for further understanding among Afghans.

Following that Haji Bahadur, Haji Tajoddin, Haji Enayatollah, Bakht Jamal, Haji Khan, and Haji Hashem Khan expressed their full support for the Republic of Afghanistan's efforts to achieve an end to the war, the restoration of peace, and the consolidation of total peace in the country on behalf of the Zazi tribe. They also expressed with resolve their readiness to ensure security in related areas.

The jerga ended with prayers for the restoration of peace in the country.

Bangladesh

Further Reportage on BCCI Activities

Depositors To Get Money Back

BK0908145191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 9 (AFP)—Depositors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in Bangladesh will get back part or all of their money, a government minister announced here Friday.

The state-run Agrani Bank would pay the depositors "interest-free advances" equal to the full amount of their accounts or 50,000 taka (1,388 U.S. dollars), whichever was the lower, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said at a hurriedly-called news briefing.

He said there were nearly 30,000 deposit accounts with the four BCCI branches in Bangladesh before the July 6 closure of the bank in line with similar action worldwide.

Rahman said the government decision was aimed at mitigating the suffering of depositors, adding the move would mean some 16,000 small depositors would recover all their money.

Earlier reports put the number of BCCI clients in Bangladesh at 40,000, saying the closure left them without access to about six billion taka.

The minister's announcement followed continued protests since the closure by depositors who have demanded the immediate reopening of the bank. Protests have included a daily eight-hour hunger strike since Tuesday by 30 depositors who have threatened self-immolation if the authorities do not refund their assests.

It also coincided with the departure Friday of Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman to Abu Dhabi via Tehran on a two-day visit for talks on the BCCI issue with the authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) whose ruling family and government institutions hold 77.4 percent of the shares in the collapsed bank.

Rahman said the government, including the Central Bangladesh Bank, had been exploring several possibilities of resuming BCCI's operation in Bangladesh.

He said Dhaka had been relying heavily on the UAE authorities, who he hoped would come up with the financial backing to salvage BCCI and resume its operation in Bangladesh under a new name.

The government, he said, would also encourage potential depositors and local banks to form a consortium to salvage the BCCI in Bangladesh. If needed the government would even buy one-fourth of the shares, he said.

The minister repeatedly asserted that BCCI "was not a bad operation ... Its position was relatively satisfactory" in Bangladesh.

As well as a special audit authorities were also investigating various aspects of the BCCI operation in Bangladesh, Rahman said, adding that so far no major irregularities or money laundering had been detected.

But if all attempts to salvage the BCCI operation in Bangladesh failed, the government would have no option but liquidate it, he said, adding this would be a lengthy process and cause suffering to depositors.

UAE Team to Examine Problems

BK1408164491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman returned to Dhaka today after a five-day official visit to Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Talking to newsmen, he said a UAE delegation will visit Dhaka shortly to look into the problems of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The team will examine the possibilities of solving the problems faced by the bank in Bangladesh. The foreign minister said an Iranian delegation is also expected to visit Bangladesh shortly to discuss an air agreement for air links between Dhaka and Tehran. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said both Iran and the UAE have given him the assurances that the export of manpower from Bangladesh to those countries will get due consideration.

Parliament Session Terminated; Awami Abstains

BK1408165491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad has been prorogued. The prorogation order of the acting president was read out by Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the house this afternoon. The speaker thanked all members for their sincere cooperation during the 65-day-long budget session. Earlier, ministers, parliamentary group leaders and a number of members felicitated both the speaker and the deputy speaker for conducting the house smoothly and efficiently. They thanked the leader of the house, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia; the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina; and all members of the Parliament for their sincere cooperation in creating a democratic tradition. [passage omitted]

Our parliamentary representative adds the Awami League members did not join today's sitting in Parliament.

Left Group Merges With Awami League

BK1408165091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 14 (AFP)—The opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed got a boost here Wednesday when a breakaway group of leftists formally rejoined the league after 16 years, party sources said. Wajed attended a crowded meeting that called for formal dissolution of the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BAKSAL) and its merger with the league, the major opposition party in the parliament, they said.

Among the top BAKSAL leaders who pushed for the merger were Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdur Razzak, chairman and secretary of the formerly pro-Moscow party, witnesses said.

Ahmed and Razzak were quoted as saying earlier that with the changing situation in Eastern Europe and new realities at home, they saw no justification for a separate existence for BAKSAL.

BAKSAL, a party for peasants and workers which favoured a one-party socialist system, was introduced by Wajed's slain father and former President Sheikh Mujibur Rahmy in January 1975, after his post-independence Awami League government faced growing popular unrest.

But the controversial system ended after seven months when a violent coup by a group of young army officers overthrew the BAKSAL government, killing Rahman and most of his family members.

The next government, headed by Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed, one of Rah's top aides, disbanded BAKSAL and restored multi-party democracy and freedom of the press.

Student Clashes in Chittagong Reported

BK1408161491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Aug 14 (AFP)—Some 100 people were injured—and nine of them hospitalised with bullet wounds—after renewed violence erupted early Wednesday at a tense university campus here, police and doctors said. Police said scores of unidentified gunmen on three trucks entered the embattled Chittagong University campus and shot indiscriminatly at dormitories where many residents were asleep. Ten people were hospitalised and the rest were treated in private clinics, doctors and student sources said. Police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles moved to the campus, which reopened this month after a forced closure of eight months. The university is the stronghold of Islami Chatra Shibir, the student wing of the rightist Jamaat-e-islami party, which in a statement blamed the rival Bangladesh Chatra League for the attack. The league, backed by the opposition Awami League, was not available for comment. One of the injured is in critical condition.

India

Independence Day Celebrations Held

Prime Minister Speaks

BK1508082591 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0201 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Prime Minister's Narasimha Rao's speech to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on Independence Day 15 Aug—live]

[Text] Dear countrymen! I greet you all on the auspicious occasion of the 44th anniversary of India's independence. I am an ordinary worker, who was born in a small village. Through your blessings and exaltation of democracy and my good fortune I am addressing you from this historic Red Fort. You are all aware that independence was achieved through untold sacrifices by many and with toil and blood. The great chariot of democracy will continue its journey unhindered as in the past. Ten Lok Sabha elections were held during these 44 years. The tenth and last elections recently were concluded. We saw both your happiness and anger during these elections, but we accepted whatever verdict you gave from time to time and followed your instructions. We are one of you, within you, and will continue to be with you. This is our address and identity and we do not need any separate identity. [applause]

The tenth Lok Sabha elections were held in the shadow of a great tragedy. The cruel assassination of Rajiv Gandhi stunned the nation. The young man whom it was thought made certain the question of leadership for the next 20 to 25 years disappeared. This has cast a deep shadow on our national life. But what can we do. We know that he who comes also goes. If his going is timely, there is no worry. But, if death is untimely, everybody gets worried. Today, I am making a pledge to you that we will follow the agenda Rajiv Gandhi made for this country, his future program, and the path he had shown us.

Today, I want to tell you about the crossroad at which the nation is standing. This government has barely been in office for 55 days today. We took some steps during these 55 days and saved ourselves from some immature mistakes. The people gave us a mandate to form a government, but we somewhat lacked the essential majority required. Even then we thought that it was the people's instruction to form a government and run the country and we will spare no efforts to work for the welfare of the country. We moved forward with the people's mandate in mind. Other political parties are giving us their cooperation and the situation is optimistic. I am fully confident that there is no room for any speculation about the government's stability.

I want to tell you in few words about the problems this government inherited. We inherited a social environment poisoned by religious factionalism and ethnic hatred. The economic crisis reached a stage unprecedented in the history of an independent India. We had lost our economic identity. We were on the verge of not fulfilling our debt obligations within two to three weeks. I assumed the reins of government in such a situation. Some problems existed in the past as well, but they had become very complex during the last two years. We inherited all these problems. It looked as if we had reached the stage where our survival was at stake. There was no room for delaying things and indicisiveness would have been tantamount to suicide, and that is why we took some urgent steps. We took courageous decisions and, based on these decisions, we can say that we prevented the situation from further deterioration and stemmed the rot. A lot more has to be accomplished, but we have halted the downward slide.

You know that we manufacture many things in this country; however, there are many things we import as well. There are many things which we make here, but not enough to meet our needs, and that is why we have to import things like kerosene, diesel oil, edible oil, fertilizer, and chemicals to meet our requirements. We cannot buy these in our currency so we need foreign exchange. Our foreign exchange reserves had completely dried up. Even today, the situation is not good. That is why we have to increase exports. We have to send goods made here abroad, sell them abroad to earn foreign exchange. Otherwise, we will not make any headway. That is why we have eliminated the vicious circle of obtaining licenses and permits. This harassed the people and nothing could move forward. We have freed the people who have been caught in this circle. We have taken full measures, including changing the exchange rate slightly to increase our exports. We are hopeful and confident that our exports will increase in the coming days and we will earn sufficient foreign exchange. We presented the budget for the next fiscal year envisaging many schemes

that are beneficial to the public, keeping in mind the requirements of our rural population.

I would like to mention a few programs before you. We have done a lot or would like to do so in this area. I will describe these in a few words as I do not have much time. You are aware that we prepared a massive program, named after Rajiv Gandhi, to provide drinking water to every village. We know that many villages have already been provided with drinking water facilities. We have been doing this during the past 40 years. But there are certain villages that are quite far flung or have rocky soil, making the provision of water more difficult. We are adopting about 80,000 such villages, which will be provided with drinking water under the program launched in the name of Rajiv Gandhi.

In our country there are backward classes, whose status should be improved. We are setting up a corporation which will provide assistance to them. We are aware that frequently there are communal riots in this country. In these riots, people get killed or become disabled and crippled. Moreover, when children become destitutes there is nobody to look after them. We created a national fund for these children. This fund will look after them, arrange for their education and training, and give them an opportunity to flourish as good citizens. [applause].

Workers frequently lose their jobs in our country. Nobody cares for them when they lose their jobs. We prepared a program for them that will assist them and make arrangements to train them and locate them in alternative employment when they lose one type of job, so that they are not rendered totally jobless, and are not subjected to facing hardships. You all know that there are very good artisans in every village. They are not inferior to anybody in expertise. But, the villagers may be aware that even today the implements in their possession are very much outdated. There are about 500,000 to 550,000 villages in this country. You may make an estimate of the number of such artisans in every village who are working with outmoded tools. We have prepared a scheme which will make arrangements to provide sophisticated tools to all those artisans. Today, a village artisan goes to the city. In the city, the tools of an artisan are good and his income is better. The one who goes to the city from the village faces difficulties there also. Therefore, by giving good tools to the village artisans, the need for them to migrate to the cities does not arise. They then can make their living in the village itself.

The most important thing is that our public distribution system, through which we open shops with fair prices, are so far mostly functioning in cities. They have not reached the villages. We decided to choose some 1,500 blocks from the remote villages, mostly from tribal, desert, and the most backward areas, and make efforts to open shops with fair priced shops in every village within one or two years to provide essential commodities at reasonable and cheap prices. I think, it will be a great boon to our villagers [applause].

You are also aware that in our villages there are frequent conflicts and disputes over land ownership rights. The conflicts flare up to such an extent that the real issue remains in the background. The reason for the clashes, violence, and litigation, which ruin the people every year, is that the land records are not perfect there. The records in some states are very imperfect or quite useless, and in some states there are no records at all. The only way to prevent this disorder is to organize the land ownership records in the villages. Then, at least the people may come to know about their lands—who has rights or does not have rights over them. We would like to launch a campaign all over India to set right the land records in every village and to help in preparing correct records. [applause]

The Indira Gandhi Scheme for Women was launched by Rajiv Gandhi. It was not implemented during the past two years. We will revive and implement it. You are aware that the legislation, formulated by a local body system two years ago, was not allowed to be passed. We will get it passed and will implement it.

I would like to inform our brethren living abroad, who are called NRI—Non-Resident Indians—that we have already invited them and I am inviting them here again. We would like to give them several facilities here. Although I do not have time to explain in detail, I would like to state briefly that we are inviting them to invest their money here, to set up industries, and to strengthen their ancestral relationships. We are ready to do anything for this. We are proud to say that these people, who have gone to other countries in millions [applause], are well-off, thriving, and are committed to serve their own country. I once again invite them all.

Now, I would like to speak on some of the burning problems. As I told you just now, a strong feeling of hatred is spreading in this country. It has great sway here. Violence also has its sway. We have to change it. In this country, which is nonviolent and the cradle of nonviolence, violence is not good. It is not good for us nor for the entire world. Because India believes in world peace and always strived for it, if peace does not exist in our country, we have no right to speak about world peace.

There are the Punjab and Kashmir issues where large-scale violence is being witnessed. Separatism and secessionism hold sway. I want to make it clear that terrorism is not going to achieve anything. There are no good results other than lives being lost and bloodshed. Their causes or reasons for terrorism this will never be achieved. I want us to return to the path of peace. People indulging in violence should return to peaceful means and cooperate with us in solving the country's problems, including that of Punjab and Kashmir. We can surely find a solution by joining hands. There is no problem that cannot be solved or overcome. We want elections in Punjab. Polls will definitely take place in the state, but we do not want or have to tolerate the polls being used

for separatism. We have a Constitution and the polls will definitely be held within that framework.

About Kashmir, I want to say that we will fight the terrorism there and overcome it. I also want to say that we have the Simla Agreement with Pakistan and we will try to solve our questions and problems under the Simla Agreement. This has been done so far and will continue to be done in the future. We do not need mediation from anyone. We are neighboring states and can solve these things by sitting together. The need is for goodwill from the other side and an end to their actions which encourage violence here. I have no doubt that all things can be settled if this happens.

During the last two to three years, a strange problem has arisen here—the temple-mosque dispute. Our country was founded on the principle of secularism. We stand against spreading communalism in the name of religion. We want to remain secular. Religion is a personal matter. That one goes to a temple or mosque has no bearing on the government or its politicies and programs. We will not give up secularism. We may need other people and their help in running the government, but we will never be able to move the country forward by giving up these basic principles. This country will be torn asunder the day we give up secularism. That is why will never give up secularism. Religion binds the people together, creates spiritual thinking, and reforms the world. The use of religion in politics and to secure some votes in an election should not take place. I hope that the people will see through this game and foil any such attempt in the future.

We also believe in providing full protection to minorities along with secularism. That is why we are going to give the Minorities Commission statutory status. No religion faces any threat here. I want to declare here that the slogans being raised that this or that religion is under threat are hollow slogans. Never has there been any threat to religion in this country, nor will there be. This is our guarantee. My government pledges to see that no religion is ever threatened and we will eliminate for good any such threat. We, however, have to be careful about such slogans.

Then we face the question of the Mandal Commission [recommending reservation of jobs for backward class communities in the civil service], which concerns our brothers from backward classes. We definitely want social justice and started many programs in different states to accomplish it. But we do not want a social divide in the name of social justice. We do not want to achieve social justice through the path of violence and by pitting one community against another. This will achieve nothing and create more complex problems. We are sure that we can solve this problem through peaceful means and compromise. I feel that there is a great deal of consensus on this issue from the talks I held so far with others. It may not be complete yet, but it can be achieved. I also want to solve this issue on the basis of the national consensus and we will continue efforts in this direction.

We are considering a very comprehensive program for the farmers, who are our food givers. The farmers grow food grains, but they will have to produce several other things as well. They will have to increase their production. The increased agricultural production will help us send our products outside, increase our exports, and earn foreign exchange. Thus far, our farmers have done the job of meeting the food requirements of their countrymen, but now I invite them to move forward and grow things for export to make the country prosperous.

Concerning youth, I have only this to say: that the government has always had, and will always keep, their welfare in mind. The plans that we are considering in this regard cannot be elaborated here because of the lack of time. But I want to assure them that we are preparing plans for them and that we will always do our best to ensure their welfare.

Dear friends, the main problem that our country is facing today is in the economic field. We have to increase our production as well as the wealth of the nation. When wealth does not increase, there remains nothing to share; and to share poverty is not a very wise act. Therefore, we have to produce wealth first and then try to distribute it equally; and to do this, we need to make plans. The government is moving ahead, keeping in view these two things.

We have to increase the opportunities for employment and for that industrialization is needed. As the industries cannot be run by old methods, we have to create a new atmosphere and we are engaged in this task. If the capacity of the industries is not increased, then they will lag behind and will not be able to compete with others in the international markets. Therefore, we need to increase the production capacity of the industries.

While formulating economic policies, we also have to ensure that there is no disintegration of the country, no social unrest, or any such thing that will continue to waste the people's entire time and energy in fighting against each other. We have to stop this at all costs. I want to tell you that unity in society and the unity of the country are not two different things, but they are two arms of one single body. We have to take care of both of them. I understand that it is our first and foremost duty to maintain the unity of the country and that of society. We will do our best, and we have to continue to do so, to see that unity, integrity, equilibrium, and mutual harmony in society is never disturbed. As I said, it is the duty of all of us and we have to do it.

I wanted to tell you several things, but it is not possible here because of the lack of time. I shall, however, continue to inform you from time to time about the plans formulated by the government and also about what we are going to do. Today, I would like to tell you only this: that the country is in a very dangerous situation. It

is facing many threats—both internal and external—and unity is very essential to deal with these threats.

On this auspicious occasion I once again congratulate you and wish that the next year of independent India may bring about happiness, prove good for everyone, help accelerate the pace of development, and bring about prosperity in the country. I am thankful and grateful to you all that you heard me today [applause] and hope that you will all discharge your duties and assist the government in the discharging of its responsibilities. There is no difference between you and us. We all have to do this collectively. Let us move forward. Thank you. Good-bye.

Venkataraman's 14 Aug Speech

BK1408150991 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Aug 91

[President R. Venkataraman's speech to the nation on eve of Independence Day—recorded; place and date not given]

[Text] Friends! Tomorrow will herald the 44th anniversary of our independence. On the eve of this auspicious occasion, I have great pleasure in conveying to all fellow citizens residing in India and abroad my greetings and good wishes. To our kisans [farmers] and mazdoors [workers], whose strenuous labor has sustained the progress of our country, I would like to offer my sincere thanks. To our valiant jawans [soldiers], sailors, and airmen, whose unremitting vigil protects our frontiers, I take pride in extending my warmest appreciation. And, to the women of India who have cradled our civilization for millennium and have achieved parity with men in every respect, I offer a brother's blessings.

Our thoughts turn in deep gratitude today to the great pageant of our freedom struggle which commenced in the magical year 1857. The torch that was lit by [freedom fighters] Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi, Tatiya Tope and Bahadurshah Zafar was held aloft decade after decade by our brave people who made the most heroic sacrifices to free India from bondage. We remember today in particular, Mahatama Gandhi, who came as a beacon of light to lead us out of the darkness of political thralldom. The world had seen many a great revolutionary before, but here was one who sought to revolutionize revolution itself. Talented and courageous leaders from all parts of the country flocked under his banner. To the great leaders and to the countless foot soldiers in the battle for liberation, we offer this day our respectful salutations. But, we cannot stop with the paying of tributes. That will be altogether inadequate and even unworthy. The architects of our freedom had no interest in winning applause. Their aim was larger—to win swaraj [self-rule] not as an end in itself, but as a means for building a new society based on social justice. We must, therefore, take a pause to introspect and ask our ourselves if that objective has been realized. Has swaraj translated itself into the desired swaraj or not?

If we examine the brief record of independent India, we cannot but derive satisfaction from the fact that thanks to the path of planned economic development, ushered in by our first prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, the pre-1947 dormancy was replaced by a comprehensive dynamism. Indian agriculture has as a result achieved the desirable level of self-sufficiency. Indian industry and entrepreneurship has boomed and we are now placed among the first 15 of the industrialized countries of the world. We have reached the stage of self-reliance in items like heavy machine tools and equipment, in the generation of energy—both atomic and conventional—and in an array of consumer durables. India has made great strides in the fields like computers, oceanography, space research, genetic engineering, and biotechnology. We are also one of the handful of countries which can maintain a full nuclear fuel cycle—from the refining of the ore to the reprocessing of the waste. And, thanks to the creative pragmatism of several chief ministers, the quality of life of common man has registered a marked improvement. Life expectancy, which was barely 32 years at the time of our independence, has gone up to 60 years. Literacy has spread impressively with Kerala doing us all proud by its 100 percent achievement. And, although much remains to be done to improve their lot, the scheduled castes and tribes have come into their own all over the country.

Having said this, we will, nonetheless, have to admit that within the profile of progress, the expression on India's face is not one of satisfaction. The sharp contrast between the haves and the have-nots, the rich urbanite and the slum dweller, the employed and the jobless, the shelter-child and the street-child is a matter of deep regret. A third of the population of India lives at what is termed the subsistence level. Swaraj has meant little to the deprived and unprivileged. A major reason is, without doubt, the disconcerting rise in our population which dilutes, if not nullifies, the progress that we make. A national plan of action for stabilizing our population needs the highest priority. Higher percentage of literacy synchronizes with the lower rate of the directive principles of state policy of compulsory primary education may serve the dual purposes of advancing literacy and containing the population explosion. Living beyond one's means is not only dangerous to a person, but to the nation as well. In a country with our limited resources, nonproductive and nondevelopmental expenditure is not just wrong, it is immoral. For far too long have public funds being looked upon as departmental dowry, not as a trust. This is got to change. But, at a more fundamental level another failure on our part as a people needs to be acknowledged. It is the failure to think of India as one family and work unitedly toward the common goal of a prosperous and equitable social order.

We are living in a world that is racing ahead on the wings of science and technology. We missed the industrial revolution because as a colony the initiative did not rest with us. It does now. We must not miss the opportunity for rapid advancement. If we do, posterity will not

forgive us. We must make common cause and work with a sense of creative mutuality, each individual, group, and sector making its own contribution to the whole. It will be instructive to remind ourselves that during the freedom movement everyone wanted to give, never to take. People gave of their own time, talents, and financial resources generously. The nation came first. The self was always the last. The spirit of sacrifice that animated our freedom fighters has completely disappeared from the lexicon of their prodigy. We have to recapture the spirit of dedicated service to the nation, whatever be the walk of life we may be engaged in. We must remind ourselves, neither ritual, nor prodigy, nor wealth, but only renunciation brings true happiness. A country which has preached the concept of the performance of duties without counting the fruits thereof should not fail to practice it for the welfare of its own people.

With the transfer of power, the sequence seems to have changed. Competition has replaced cooperation; antagonism has displaced accord; provincial, linguistic, and class animosities have come to be added to the odious divide of religion and caste. Citizenship is now folded up into a hundred parts such as the north- south, majority-minority, rural-urban, forward-backward, backward-scheduled, insider-outsider. The list is endless. This multiplicity of its denominational poles has robbed the Indian citizenship of its basic identity. It has made each segment sharply insecure and intolerant. One community snaps at the other. One caste snarls at another. Gandhiji was found of the hymn which says: He is the true vaishnav [devotee] who knows the peeda [pain] of others. All of us remain absorbed in our own peeda, not in that of others or that of the nation as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity provided by this national anniversary to make a plea for the adoption by all Indians of a truly national perspective as against the compartmentalized one. Management and labor, land owners and cultivators, manufacturers and consumers should make common cause with one another and strengthen the sinews of the nation. This is essential if we are to meet the many challenges that face us.

Apart from the economic question, we are confronted with several issues of immediate and vital import. Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam have been witness to tragic violence. Terrorists are a small faction of the population and yet because of the strength of the weapons they wield, they have become a force to contend with. Sophisticated and lethal weapons are used by militants to strike terror among the people. The barbaric practice of kidnapping innocent persons and holding them as hostages has become a great menace. When a private citizen or civilian on duty is abducted, much more is involved than the loss of an individual's freedom. When innocents are shot or killed in explosions, the agony goes well beyond that of the victims. The attack is on India's spirit and soul as a free, sovereign, and peace-loving democracy. The government is determined to meet the challenge, whatever be the odds. The government is aware that the ranks of militants often- times include misguided youth who are exploited by anti-national forces. We would like to help such misguided persons to abandon their dangerous and mistaken path. The government will be happy to hold negotiations with those who eschew violence and accept the framework of the Constitution. I would appeal to all my fellow citizens to continue to support the efforts of the government in this regard.

Despite the encouragement to terrorists in Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir from across the borders, our efforts toward normalization and improvement of relationship with the countries in our region will continue with unabated vigor. India has played and will continue to play a creative role in world affairs. The wisdom of our policy of Panca Sila [five principles of peaceful coexistence] and nonalignment has been amply borne out by the recent historic changes in the word. We will continue to strive for peace and disarmament and for global cooperation to reduce poverty and improve living standards in the developing nations.

To be able to fulfill our destiny, both internally as well as a responsible member of the comity of nations, we must recapture the transcontinental and transdenominational solidarity that marked our freedom struggle. Let us proceed toward the goal of a prosperous India with the sense of participation and partnership which the Hindi poet Maithli Sharam Gupta captured in the lines: May there be in every heart a thirst for human empathy, may a care for me on your part, match my care for your prosperity.

Jai Hind [Hail India].

Greetings From Leaders

BK1508053491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Several world leaders have sent messages of greetings on the occasion of the 45th independence day. In his message to President R. Venkataraman, the Soviet President Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed his country's solidarity with India's economic and social policy.

The Pakistan president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, in their messages wished the people of India continued progress and prosperity. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan would continue to exert its best efforts to achieve the goal of tension-free relations between the two countries.

Among other leaders who have sent the greetings are the UAE president, Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, and the Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

Officials Accuse Pakistan of Airspace Violation

BK1008125291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 10 (AFP)—A Pakistani helicopter gunship violated Indian airspace twice over the border town of Poonch in Kashmir, Indian defence officials said here Saturday.

The violations Friday near the line of control which divides areas of Kashmir administered by the two countries prompted Indian commanders to protest to their Pakistani counterparts, the officials said.

The helicopter penetrated about 10 kilometres (six miles) into Indian airspace during its two sorties, hovering briefly over strategic army installations, and returned as Indian officers sounded an alert, they said. It was the 15th reported violation of Indian airspace over Kashmir by Pakistani aircraft this year.

Control of Kashmir is the subject of a longstanding dispute between India and Pakistan, and has caused two of the three wars between the countries.

Army soldiers were enforcing an indefinite curfew in Poonch on Saturday after violence the previous day during a demonstration against unemployment, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

One woman was killed and 15 policemen were injured in violence sparked by rock-throwing demonstrators demanding government jobs, PTI said. The protestors also tried to set fire to government buildings, prompting police to open fire, killing the woman and injuring three other demonstrators.

'Near Total' General Strike in Punjab 14 Aug

BK1508010291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1741 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 14 (AFP)—A general strike called by Sikh militants across Punjab on the eve of India's independence anniversary received a near-total response Wednesday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Road transport to and from Punjab were suspended by authorities, apparently to avoid any attack on them.

Private vehicles also kept off the roads and most of the shops and businesses remained shut in Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Majitha, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur towns, PTI said.

The army was put on alert across Punjab as a precaution during two day strike, due to end Friday morning.

Punjab Governor Surender Nath, who took over last week, pleaded Wednesday with the "misguided youth" of the state to give up violence and return to democratic politics.

"I am confident that all problems can be resolved through dialogue and discussion. The path of violence leads to nowhere," Nath was quoted as saying in Chandigarh in a message on the independence anniversary eve.

Meanwhile, incidents of violence connected with the bloody campaign for an independent Sikh homeland left 19 more people, including 11 militants, dead across Punjab late Tuesday and Wednesday, PTI reported separately.

A bomb blast at a deserted bus station in the Punjabi capital Chandigarh injured a police constable, PTI said.

Some 3,050 people have died in connection with the militant campaign in Punjab so far this year.

Army Placed on Standby

BK1408162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, the Army has been asked to standby for assisting the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order all over the state. According to an official spokesman, the Army will move in only at the request of the district magistrate.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said that the two-day bundh [strike] call given by some Akali factions and other organizations failed to evoke much response on the first day today. The spokesman said that essential services, road and rail transport, and educational institutions functioned as normal in most of the places.

Andhra Pradesh Strike Over Killing of 8 Persons

BK1008043091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh a statewide bundh [strike] is being observed today in protest against the killing of eight persons in Chundur Village of Guntur District. The bundh call has been given by the opposition Telugu Desam Party and its allies. The state director general of police, Mr. R. Prabhakar Rao, told our Hyderabad correspondent this morning that elaborate security arrangements have been made all over the state. The state road transport corporation buses are plying normally. Many schools and offices are closed today on account of second Saturday being a holiday.

Strike Peaceful; 200 Arrested

BK1008132291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Over 200 people were arrested today in connection with the statewide bundh [strike] to protest against the recent killings of eight persons in Chundur Village of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh. The bundh call was given by the main opposition Telugu Desam Party and its allies. The state director general of police told our Hyderabad correspondent this evening that the bundh passed off peacefully except for a few incidents of stone throwing on buses.

Meanwhile, a team of seven members of parliament headed by the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, visited the riot-torn village today.

Iran

Daily: Release of Western Hostages 'Premature'

LD1408174591 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—A Tehran daily on Wednesday criticized the release of two Western hostages held in Lebanon by Lebanese groups as "a premature move if not a mistake."

"At a time when the U.S. is trying to take control of the Middle East situation, the release of two Western hostages is considered premature, if not a mistake," KEYHAN said in a political commentary written by Massoud Jazayeri.

"The issue of the hostages has always been, and still is, a weak point for the U.S. In other words, even if Washington has come to terms with the majority of the regional regimes, it is still faced with numerous problems in encountering nations," it said.

The daily said while Arab governments and even those in Europe and the Soviet Union are not in a position to affect Washington's policy in the region, intifada, or the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands is still a big issue in question for the U.S.

Terming the Islamic resistance of Lebanon as a "true opponent" of the Zionist regime that will continue its struggle, the daily said this proved the taking of certain positions to be fruitful.

The reactionary Arab regimes lack the power to encounter the U.S. for countless reasons such as their dependence on Washington and as a matter of fact they see their survival tied to their obedience to Washington, it said.

In addition, KEYHAN said, none of the eight members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council are directly engaged in any territorial dispute with Israel.

To this end, Syria whose stance has a key role in Bush's peace overture, should be alerted more than ever before by the Zionist regime's decision not to return the Golan Heights to Damascus, the daily said.

"Syria is aware that Lebanon cannot remain a price for peace for ever. Syria's confrontation with the Islamic resistance of Lebanon will certainly entail irreparable losses for that country ...but this may be an inevitable process in the event Damascus helps the U.S.," the daily warned.

In the same context, the daily said, the issue of the hostages could be evaluated.

Apart from settling the regional issues, attention is paid to the future presidential elections in the U.S., it said, adding that the prolongation of the (hostage) issue is in contrast to the American model of the new world order.

And also the presidential elections will bring about such conditions under which the ruling regime will have to rid of the issue of the hostages as soon as possible. "Therefore, the issue should be regarded as a matter going far beyond a common deal," it concluded.

Onus on U.S., Israel for More Hostage Releases

LD1308201991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The freeing of two Western hostages in Beirut and now the release of the text of the Islamic Jihad's letter addressed to the UN secretary general on the hostages' issue, proposing that the whole problem of detainees and hostages should settled [words indistinct] of this crisis [word indistinct] positive and optimistic.

Upon his arrival in Geneva yesterday, the UN secretary general said: I am now real hopeful of the resolution of the hostages' crisis. At the same time, the Islamic Jihad expressed its willingness to release all of its hostages subject to the freedom of all the detainees. This is under conditions when Israel, in response to this positive gesture, has not yet changed its attitude concerning nonrelease of nearly 400 Lebanese and Palestinians held captive by it. Since the Zionist regime has come under public pressure for releasing the hostages the trip of that regime's envoy to Geneva and his meeting with the UN secretary general on the issues of the detainees and hostages, are related to such pressure.

The release of two British and U.S. hostages in Beirut in recent days, and giving priority to the UN role in further continuation of the trend to resolve the hostages' crisis, are significant in some respects. The Islamic Jihad's letter to the UN Secretary General asked him to adopt serious and responsible measures to find a (?suitable) solution and to precisely respond to it. The letter also noted: Whenever the fate of an American, Western, or Israeli national is at stake, there is created a worldwide clamour with the United Nations and all governments entering the scene in the so-called defense of human rights. But, on the contrary, when the Palestinians are massacred in al-Sabra and al-Shatila camps, and the Muslims are abducted in Lebanon, the UN and such governments do not show any reaction.

In its letter the Islamic Jihad poses this question: How is it that the UN played a key role in relation to the Persian Gulf crisis, but, while finding a just solution to the issue of the Palestinian nation, that world body is ignored?

The letter of the Islamic Jihad, which points to the improper attitude of the United Nations in the past, also depicts the fact that this world body, while keeping itself away from the pressures being brought by the big powers,

can independently engage in examining the [word indistinct] issues and without the existing [word indistinct].

Therefore, under these conditions, it seems that present efforts to secure the freedom of the hostages, which at this stage have brought the release of two of them, paved the way for the trend to continue its desired course with a positive response and practical steps from Israel in relation to the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees. In the absence of such a step, Israel and its Western and U.S. supporters alone will be to blame for any delay [word indistinct] in this process. And they will be answerable to pressure from public opinion.

Shaykh 'Ubayd Release Possible 'Soon'

LD1308121591 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 13, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese alim Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, kidnapped and then imprisoned by Zionist forces in the July of 1989, is to be released soon.

An informed Muslim source told IRNA that Shaykh 'Ubayd would possibly be reunited with his family next Saturday.

'Ubayd was kidnapped by invading Zionist troops from his home in Jibshit township in southern Lebanon.

British Request Welcomed

LD1308140291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The release of three Western hostages of different nationalities in Lebanon last week is regarded as a fundamental development in the hostage-taking affair, rendering a promising prospect—for the first time in the past seven years—in terms of the final closure of this case. Political analysts ascribe this promising prospect to the emergence of a number of developments in the affair. The first development was seen in the captors' goodwill, which they demonstrated by releasing a number of hostages in a very short period and within brief intervals. Another was that the captors, by sending a letter to the UN secretary general, brought—for the first time—a new factor to this case, as a means of presenting it on an international level as a human and predominant problem, to be resolved through cooperation with the United Nations. The third development in this affair is seen in the shift in the Western countries' stance on the hostage-taking crisis. Pressured by public opinion at home, and also by international conditions, they felt they had to resolve this long-drawn crisis, especially since the people and the political leaders of Western countries sensed that their governments do possess the necessary levers for finding a rational and correct solution to this crisis.

The recent pressures exerted by a number of Western governments on the Zionist regime, aimed at releasing hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians captured by the Zionist regime, is indicative of the fact that Western governments grasped the roots of hostage-taking in Lebanon, as well as their ability to resolve it. Meanwhile, one should not neglect the part played by the previously released hostages in these developments, since to a great extent they were responsible for bringing the realities faced by Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian people to the attention of their respective governments, hence accounting for the captors' true motives. Incidentally, the groups of captors, too—because of the shift in domestic public opinion and policies of Western governments—have been trying to provide them [Western governments] with motives and grounds for action, by taking positive and promising initiatives, such as releasing a number of hostages, as well as decisively emphasizing their preparedness to put an end to this crisis, in their letter to the secretary general.

The British Govermnent's summoning of the Zionist regime's minister to London, through the British Foreign Office, and its request for the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was taken hostage by Israeli commandos on Lebanese soil two years ago, is the first practical initiative made in response to the positive initiative of the Lebanese captors; an action, which in its own way, serves to indicate that Western leaders, are for the first time, paying attention to the roots and the reasons behind hostage-taking in Lebanon. In the wake of this international recognition of the Zionist regime as one of the main and fundamental causes of the sad hostage-taking affair, Tel Aviv leaders tried to cover up evident facts through adopting various stands, thus placing the present promising prospect under a cloud of gloom and ambiguity. That is, by emphasizing the effects, they are trying to deemphasize the main causes of hostage-taking—in other words the Zionist regime—thereby freeing themselves from this present deadlock and bottleneck. For this reason, by raising the fate of seven Zionist officers who were captured by Islamic forces while violating villages in southern Lebanese territory, and by linking it to finding a solution to the hostage-taking crisis, they intend to place obstacles on the path of its resolution. The fact is that, hitherto, by adopting a unilateral policy in support of the aggressive Zionist regime, the West inflicted countless and irreparable losses and damages on Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian nations. Israel, too, by counting on such supports, embarked on occupying Islamic territories, trampling the Palestinian and the Lebanese people under its military boots. Moreover, that regime, deems the just resistance of the people in the face of such acts of aggression—which have been recognized as legitimate rights in accordance to international laws and regulations—as crime and offense, on the basis of which it detains and takes captive thousands of individuals. The West's military and political support for the Zionist regime, and its silence in the face of that regime's acts of aggression and atrocities caused Muslim nations of the

region to believe that there is no difference between a Zionist aggressor and a Westerner, an issue which was perhaps the principle reason behind the taking of Western citizens hostage by elements exasperated with the Zionist regime's aggression and tyranny.

In the opinion of political observers, at present, in view of the said fact which serves to fully clarify the causes and effects of the hostage-taking crisis, it is up to the Western countries, to change their policies in the region, and to review their policies in terms of support for the Zionist regime. Thus, Western countries will be able to divorce themselves from Israel and its atrocities, hence rendering their appearance favorable to the nations in the region. It is certain that any positive response and reciprocal move by Western countries toward resolving the hostage-taking crisis could help those countries earnestly attempting to resolve this human problem, so as to enable them to end this crisis completely and comprehensively, irrespective of the hostages' nationalities.

Desire To Release Hostages Before Apr '92 Seen

NC1308102891 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 12 Aug 91 p 7

[Text] Informed Arab sources stressed that the Iranian Government wants to see all the foreign hostages in Lebanon released before the onset of the Iranian election campaign in April 1992. This campaign will coincide with the beginning of the Iranian solar calender, which starts on 21 March each year. This will enable Tehran to improve its economic situation by getting access to its funds frozen in the United States. These funds are estimated at $11 billion, according to Iranian calculations. Moreover, the release of the hostages will pave the way for the opening of normal relations between Iran and the United States in the political, economic, and military fields.

These sources believe that the release of British hostage John McCarthy on Thursday came after negotiations between London and Tehran resulted in an agreement under which Britain would sell Asman, a private Iranian company, five giant aircraft. The United States had in the past blocked this deal, which led British industrialists to complain that they would lose $500 million, representing the cost of these aircraft.

At the same time, American companies are holding secret negotiations with Iranian officials for the sale of giant Boeing aircraft once the U.S. embargo on trade with Iran is lifted. Three American oil companies so far have been permitted to buy Iranian oil. The American companies pay for this oil from their funds which were frozen in Iran following the outbreak of the Iranian revolution.

In the past, the United States also opposed the sale of French Airbus aircraft to Iran as a kind of punishment and as part of the embargo against Iran.

Khamene'i Warns of Cultural Assault

LD1408195591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The heads of executive, legislative and judicial powers, together with high-ranking civilian and military officials, met His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, this morning at Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyyeh.

Addressing important remarks to those present, the Guardian of the Cause of the Muslims stressed the need for observing piety, spiritual purity, proximity with God, and profound study of the Honorable Koran. These are imperatives in the effort to preserve the value system and the religious governance. He also offered guidance to them on matters related to the people and governance as well as on political topics and the planned cultural onslaught, which has been organized against the values of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that names, titles, and designations do not constitute any cause to be proud of; rather, what can give rise to pride is to serve the people and that is why the Imam of the Ummah—may his dust be sanctified—used to say that he preferred to be called a servant rather than the leader.

He said that in our view, people refers principally to the deprived class, who must receive special attention. Capitalists and the well-to-do who know no pain and those who never felt the eight years of the imposed war and who never realized what happened in this country are not the kind of people whom the Islamic system and government cares to serve. We must serve those who felt with all their existence the war, air raids, economic blockade, shortages of water and power, and the hardship stemming from rising prices; those who welcomed these problems for the sake of the lofty objectives of Islam and the revolution.

In another part of his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i sternly warned his audience that various sectors of the regime must refrain from indulgence in extravagant spending, lavish living, luxurious styles, and imposition of unnecessary expenses on the government budget. He said: You must scorn material pleasures and interests; you must deem them unworthy. We earned our popularity in the eyes of the people because of our piety, simple life style, and disregard for material things; and it is through maintaining the same style that we can remain popular in the people's hearts. [passage omitted]

Elaborating on various forms of world governments, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Some world systems run as a dictatorial and Police State, using power, force, and banners. Dictatorial systems such as monarchist, semi-monarchist and communist regimes are among those kind of regimes. The Western democratic systems are governments run on the basis of hypocrisy and propaganda. In such systems massive propaganda set-ups besiege the entire lives of the people. They are

put in such conditions that they are no longer capable of finding out realities and facts. Whenever the wall of conspiracy collapses, force and dictatorship are revealed. But the foundations of an Islamic system are based on trust and love between the people and the authorities. Those affections and the love of people for their officials are the major factors which have helped to eliminate the biggest post-revolution crises.

The leader of the Islamic revolution instructed those present at the meeting on how to attract people's confidence and love. He added: Various political groups should exchange views, and harmonize their ideas, and rely on their common positions in order to bring themselves closer to each other.

Declaration of disagreements, at meetings and political platforms, is greater than the existing gaps and differences. Therefore forces who care for the revolution, as well as the media, ought not to create anxiety in people and the public, whom they address by making false declarations and provide America and its stooges with opportunity to be more greedy.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to a massive and organized assault, in form of intellectual and art works, against cultural values of the revolution by opportunist elements with the aim of controling the forces behind the revolution's front.

At the end of his remarks he graciously said: The press, radio and television, publicity organizations, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Propagation Organization, and the Education Ministry should confront such a conspiracy and at the same time implement appropriate cultural projects. The press, speakers, and preachers should write and speak about the revolution's blessings, capabilities, and its values as well as the necessity to support those values. They should protect the people against enemy assaults.

Before the Leader of the Islamic Republic made these remarks, President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a short speech congratulating the leader of the revolution and the Muslim nation of Iran on the auspicious birthday of Imam Mohammad-e Baqer, peace be upon him. We have put the fundamental stage and the post-war problem behind us. The Central Bank's economic report reveals the policies to be correct and programs to be realistic. By correct administration of the country and avoiding problem-making for the people, we can find money, tools, and an efficient workforce, which are considered to be the three main necessities. We have no doubt about the possibility of continuing this path because of the good will of the revolution's personalities.

The president referred to the animosity of the world's decision-making centers toward the interests of the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran. He termed Islamic Iran's special position in the Third World as exceptional, because it enjoys a set of natural resources and has a proud, resilient, and combatant nation. He said: We can build the country properly through unity, unanimity, and solidarity and make a mark on the region and the world. Our revolutionary community, the majority of the officials, administrators, Islamic Consultative Assembly deputies, and our scholars are true and are on the right path. Therefore we will successfully follow our united way along the Imam's path and the guidelines of the beloved Leader of the revolution, and realize the objectives and wishes of the Ummah's Imam. [Passage omitted]

*"New Terrorists' Operate Against Rafsanjani

91AA0580A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Aug 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by Amir Tahiri: "Iranian President Has Reorganized Personal Guard; 'New Terrorists' Escalate War Against Rafsanjani"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to sources at the Iranian Public Prosecutor's office, the immense fire which destroyed a part of Tehran's bazaar last week "was undoubtedly premeditated." Officials estimate the losses at hundreds of millions of dollars.

The sources have said that the fire, a link in a chain of mysterious "incidents," was "part of criminal endeavors opposed to the government's reform policies."

From 1980 to 1985, Iran witnessed a wave of attacks against economic targets. Two groups had a hand in those attacks, namely the Iraq-supported Mojahedin-e-Khalq and the communist Feda'iyun-e-Khalq, which was supported and financed by East Germany, North Korea, and a number of other Marxist countries.

The first group was pursued severely at home. Thus, its threat receded after 1985. As for the Feda'iyun-e-Khalq, it has nearly vanished because of the collapse of communism in the world. Its remaining leaders have abandoned Leninist Marxism and have renounced the use of political violence.

The somewhat perplexing question now is: Who is responsible for the latest terrorist attacks throughout the entire country?

To date, the leadership in Tehran is not prepared to point the finger of accusation directly. But there are enough loose insinuations to make it clear that the "new terrorists" are connected with the radical wings opposing President Hashemi Rafsanjani's policy that has opened up to the West and Rafsanjani's efforts to ingratiate himself with Iranian millionaire businessmen in exile.

These "new terrorists" deal their blows every time the Iranian president takes a major step in the direction of normalizing relations. They have assassinated numerous exiled opposition leaders with whom Rafsanjani had held indirect negotiations. Recently, these radicals have directed their attacks against economic targets. Last

winter, they carried sabotage acts that interrupted production in the Bid-Boland gas refinery for weeks. They have also been blamed for shutting down the copper mines in Kilan Shahr as a result of their premeditated destruction of the mine's safety equipment. The finger of accusation is also pointed at them for unprecedented acts of violence in Tehran during the general strike staged last month in protest of increased bus fares. The government was compelled to back down on the increase when dozens of buses were burned and when company workers were subjected to brutal attacks.

Last month's riots made it clear that Rafsanjani is having great difficulty fulfilling his promise to the IMF and Western creditors to reduce or abolish government subsidis for goods. It is to be noted here that the success of the Iranian president's program for reconstruction relies fundamentally on cancelling the subsidy, which is estimated to cost the treasury $4 billion annually.

At the end of last month, the "new terrorists" again intervened to transform peaceful anti-government demonstrations in Isfahan into bloody riots. Dozens of shops and residences were attacked, destroyed, and put to the torch by "unidentified elements."

These terrorists have also tried to frighten some exiled businessmen from returning to their country in the hope of helping to lift it from its economic abyss. Since last July, four such businessmen have been killed under mysterious circumstances. In wake of the killings, more than 50 persons have been arrested in the provinces by the semi-official revolutionary groups. The "new terrorists" are, in fact, an underground organization which was founded in the 1940's and was known by the name of Feda'iyun-e-Islam.

In the 1960's and 1970's, the organization carried out hundreds of terrorist attacks against "easy targets" in Iran, killing a countless number of civilians. In August 1978, the organization set fire to a movie theater in Abadan, killing at least 600 people who were burned alive.

This organization renounced terrorism after Khomeini gained control in Iran. But it is obvious now that it has not been disbanded.

There is evidence now indicating that the initial underground organizational structures have expanded and grown stronger, according to a source in Tehran.

President Rafsanjani's government has been waging war against the "new terrorists" since last winter. Mohammad Yazdi, the Supreme Court chairman, has said that there are more than 2,000 mullahs and theology students in jails. Death sentences have been issued against more than 10 of them after a closed trial. It seems that the "new terrorists"' main objective is Rafsanjani himself. Khomeini's supporters see him as a traitor to the principles of the departed leader. This is why Rafsanjani has reorganized his personal guard and has formed a force to protect him, along with the important members of his administration.

Analysts believe that the "new terrorists" will escalate their campaigns so as to peak before the parliamentary and presidential elections next year. To date, Rafsanjani has refrained from direct confrontation, but sources say that he has actually prepared a list containing the names of prominent radicals to be arrested.

Mohammad Yazdi has said that "those who exceed the limits must not see signs of weakness in our endurance. When the time comes, we will not hesitate to strike them with an iron fist."

Editorial Denounces President's Policies

NC1008063091 Tehran BAYAN in Persian
22 Jun-22 Jul 91 pp 6, 7, 8, 9

[Editorial: "There Is Nothing Else But This"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During the last two years and in conjunction with the implementation of a series of new policies in the country, criticism of these new policies also emerged. Opposition and criticism appear to be mounting now that these policies and their dimensions materialized and some of their unpleasant effects surfaced.

Things reached a point where President Hashemi-Rafsanjani changed his policy instead of merely explaining the policies of the government as he did earlier. He is now piling blame and censure in defense of government policies on the opponents of these policies.

The president's remarks during his 12 July Friday prayers sermon are an example of this. Considering the importance of the above discussion and the fact that the president "challenged" his critics, we considered it necessary to devote this editorial to a discussion on his remarks.

In the initial part of his second sermon, the president spoke about the nebulous and problematic U.S. plan to disarm the region and the Arab-Israeli peace plan. He endorsed the United States' ulterior motives on this. This merits attention, as most of the angles of the repulsive visage of World Arrogance are revealed thus. [passage omitted]

But it is not known, why, during his insistence on the ill will of the United States and expressing doubt on the moves of World Arrogance in the region, did Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani refer to the Revolution and the system as a phenomenon "without any headaches" which is liked by the West? When speaking about the international issues at the end of his sermon, he said: With the policies that we implemented in the past one or two years, we proved that Iran is not a place for adventurism, and is not a Revolution "without brakes!" Its program is clear and our moves on the Persian Gulf crisis, on the refugees issue, on international issues and our presence in Mecca

for holding the rituals was "without any headaches (!) as the general opinion was that we are going there to cause disruption. All this proves that Iran has a lucid policy...."

Regarding the aforementioned comments, first, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is contrasting the last two years with the decade before that, which was actually a source of pride! Second, by presenting such an image of the Revolution and the system, it seems he is trying to elicit the attention of most of the governments and international organizations.

In simpler words, in this manner, he was seeking to change the opinion of most of the enemies of the system and the Revolution who are suspicious of us and to transform them into the friends of the Revolution!! How far will the enemies of the Revolution change their opinions about us remains to be seen. What is certain is that by adopting such a stance, the president, who is on the top of the administrative pyramid, will be deprived of the popular base, which is comprised of the Hezbollah forces, the deprived, and the oppressed and in one word the real masters of the Islamic Revolution at home and abroad.

One should ask: Is this kind of attitude part of our strategy to combat the international and regional policies of the United States, including disarmament? [passage omitted]

It appears, most strongly, that the aim of the disarmament plan in the region is to disarm the "Islamic Revolution movement" in the Middle East, which is one of the strategic and sensitive regions of the world. Thus, it would be very simpleminded to think that by stating that Iran is not adventurist, there will be a major change in the international and regional policies of the United States.

Continuing his sermon, the president implied that criticism of the government policies is linked to the forthcoming elections. In fact, linking elections to criticism negates the purity and sincerity of the criticism. In other words, he endeavored to depict the cresting of recent criticism as a natural process and a sort of political activity common to election campaigning. [passage omitted]

It is amazing how the president defends the current government policies by questioning the previous government's performance. He was a high-level official and decisionmaker in the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and is, therefore, partly responsible for its past performance. [passage omitted]

In his remarks, the president stressed the virtues of the government's policies without even mentioning their shortcomings or answering criticism leveled by opponents, insisting that the country's salvation depends on these policies. Unfortunately this attitude is evidence of a Hobson's choice the result of which is that officials do not respond to criticism.

By proposing a price hike in most of the government products, the president is implying that subsidies should be eliminated and that subsidized prices should be revised. It appears that the president objects to subsidies for two reasons: First, the rich classes are also benefiting from the subsidies; and second, the subsidies and resulting low prices place a heavy burden on the government budget which does not allow the government to make major investments, such as building a power station or refinery. [passage omitted]'

All that can be said in response is that the philosophy behind subsidies is to support the oppressed and lower income class. It is a simple matter. Poverty is a serious problem in our society because a large number of people live below the poverty line. [passage omitted]

Every price hike generates more inflationary pressure on the economy which hurts the poor classes.

Putting a product on the market and raising its price does not ensure production costs. In fact, that strategy is dangerous and complicated. Other solutions exist as well: for example, prices can be fixed appropriately and gradually in keeping with the level and nature of consumption. [passage omitted]

In his remarks, the president tried to convey the impression that inflation is merely a figment of the press' imagination. The truth is that even before making headlines, inflation was a fact of life.

This problem is a natural concomitant of a free market policy. Free foreign trade will produce the same effect. By putting foreign exchange on the free market and increasing foreign exchange rates exports will be less related to the foreign exchange and will be profitable. In the words of the president: "The people will be vying for exports and the situation will be such that the nation's dust, stones, and grass will end up being exported"

This, of course, will increase the income of the traders. However, prices will spiral again and inflationary pressure will increase on the economy with the increase of exports of goods needed for domestic consumption. The result will once again be an exacerbation of poverty and social inequality. [passage omitted]

The increase in borrowing and making the country a debtor nation is another effect of the free market. Free foreign trade will boost domestic demand and will seek sources of foreign supply. Part of the country's foreign exchange resources will have to be mobilized for this purpose. This will generate a subsequent demand for more foreign capital.

Domestic production is also deeply linked to foreign exchange and no recourse will be left but to resort to foreign borrowing and to inject foreign capital in the fabric of the nation's unhealthy economy.

It is clear that the problems are not confined merely to inflation, high prices, or an atmosphere of criticism. Criticism exists because of the current policies. This

criticism should be answered on principle. It appears that the pages of the scores of newspapers are a more appropriate instrument for answering the criticism than the Friday prayer forum.

The issue of returning nationals from abroad is not about whether they should come or not. The revolution and system have been clear on this issue for years. The real discussion is how they will return and the invitation.

The modus operandi applied so far and the steps taken recently unfortunately have gone far beyond the invitation to Iranians living abroad. The people who attended the recent much-publicized gathering and the presence of two high-level economic officials is in itself proof that the aim of the meeting was to lure the ones who had economic clout and not those millions to whom the president referred. [passage omitted]

In order to attain a suitable alternative and adopt principled policies for the reform of the economic structure it is necessary to utilize all available resources including the services of policymakers, executives, and the critics. A move in this direction would be ideal and beneficial. Reforming and strengthening the policy-making apparatus and the utilization of all thinking capacities of the society will accelerate this movement even further.

* New Appointments Announced

91AS1343a Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 17 Jul 91 p 8

[Text] Brigadier General Oqaba'i, commander of the Greater Tehran Security Forces, announced the appointment of Colonel Parviz Haj Manuchehri as chief of the Greater Tehran Bureau of Investigation.

In a decree issued by Minister of Oil Aqazadeh, Engineer Asadollah Salehi Foruz was appointed deputy minister of oil for gas affairs and executive director of the National Iranian Gas Company.

Salehi Foruz formerly held the position of director of refinery affairs for the National Iranian Oil Company.

On the recommendation of Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and with the approval of the president of the republic, Faramarz Latifi Namin was appointed as the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Mali.

He was formerly the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires in Bamako, the capital of Mali.

By order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, chief of the Political-Ideology Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran Security Forces, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Asghar Harandi was appointed adviser to the chief of the Political- Ideology Organization and assumed his duties.

By order of 'Ali Akbar Rahmani, deputy minister of the interior and chief of the National Registry Organization, Seyyed Mohammad Esma'ilzadeh was placed in charge of the Investigation Assessment and Complaints Investigation Office of the National Registry Organization and assumed his duties.

In separate decrees from Engineer Mir Ahmad Sadat, adviser to the minister of industries and chief of the Iran Standards and Industrial Research Institute, Javad Sohrab Jabaruti was appointed administrative financial deputy and Jamshid Khosravi-Samani was appointed supervisor of this institute's legal department, and they assumed their duties.

By order of Engineer 'Ali Mohammad Nuriyani, deputy minister of roads and transportation and chief of the National Meteorology Organization, Engineer Hoseyn'ali Taravat was appointed as deputy director of this organization. He was formerly the executive director of the Tehran Water Works and deputy minister of energy for water affairs.

By order of Major General Guard Commander Mohsen Reza'i, the general commander of revolution guard forces, Ghafur Kargari was put in charge of the affairs of revolution guard war veterans and assumed his duties.

* More Names Released

91AS1343b Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 3 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] By order of the minister of petroleum, Hamdollah Mohammadnejad was appointed director of refinery affairs for the Ministry of Petroleum and assumed his duties.

By order of Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani, deputy president of the republic and chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, Mohammad Reza Haji-Qavami was appointed this organization's director of rural agriculture and development, and assumed his duties.

By order of Engineer Gholamreza Foruzesh, minister of the reconstruction crusade, Ebrahim Behzadi was appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Meat Organization and assumed his duties.

By order of Engineer Zanganeh, minister of energy, Engineer Mohammad Emami-Kupa'i was named executive director of the Sazand Ab Engineering Corporation.

By order of Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani, deputy president of the republic and chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, Sajjad Varaqa'i was appointed chief of the Zanjan Province Plan and Budget Organization.

In ceremonies held at the Seven Farvardin Assembly Hall of the Ground Forces Staff, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nosratollah Movahedi was presented as the chief of this force's Political-Ideology Office.

In a decree, Dr. Yusef Hojjat was appointed supervisor of Arak Industrial University.

Manhunt Launched Due to Rasht Bazaar Explosion

LD1108164791 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—A sound bomb went off at the Bazaar in Rasht, the capital of the Caspian Sea province of Gilan, Saturday afternoon, causing no injuries but some damage to nearby shops. According to Tehran-based dailies Sunday, some twenty goldsmith shops suffered damaged in the explosion.

A manhunt has been launched by disciplinary forces to arrest person or persons responsible for the blast.

Editorial Urges Formation of 'Resistance Cells'

NC1108111791 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Need To Create Resistance Cells Against the Plot of Compromise With Israel"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The reactionary Arab front is withdrawing step by step while Israel is advancing and proposing new plans in a bid to further disgrace the Arabs and exploit the passive stance by the Arab leaders.

The Zionists determined that the Arab leaders are facing a completely unstable situation. On one hand they lack popular backing; on the other, they lack the necessary courage and determination to make decisions in critical regional situations. [passage omitted]

The objective of the revolutionary and devoted nations and forces acting to preserve "the idea of Palestine" is, therefore, completely obvious: To create serious and effective obstacles by any way possible to face the Arab reactionary front's treason and to foil Zionists' efforts to sign a document that will hand over the Islamic Palestinian land to the savage occupiers. These obstacles have heretofore been created by the Arab nations, and they will have to continue their actions.

The Arab nations are obligated to act because their silence will be interpreted as cooperation with this treacherous plan. The Arab nations are obligated to defend their great honor and objective with all their might. The best defense is to attack the very home of treason. This plan should be implemented in three ways:

1. Through a propaganda offensive;
2. Through a political offensive;
3. Through the creation of resistance cells to encourage and guide revolutionary and popular forces to seriously and effectively confront Zionist and arrogant plans in the region.

All the forces that believe in the grandeur and honor of Islam should assume their duties and come to terms with the decisive influence that a propaganda offensive will have under the current conditions. All Arab nations should be told that if they keep quiet, they will surely be disgraced and will suffer for centuries under the yoke of Islam's enemies.

All the governments that believe in the principles and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran should enter the scene seriously to begin the political offensive. The Foreign Ministry should display a more responsible approach in this forum. Active and expert political delegations (the members of which are chosen from among the forces that believe in our revolution, Islam, and our present mission) should be sent worldwide and to the highest possible levels in the other Islamic countries to discuss the dimensions of the problem and the dangers that silence and cooperation with Israel entail.

This political offensive against Zionism will prove Islamic Iran's seriousness and will assure those who are still in doubt that choosing the correct path will benefit them, the regional nations, and the Islamic world.

The more difficult problem is the formation of popular resistance cells throughout the Islamic world which we believe is necessary due to the great and specific danger threatening the respect of the Islamic world and of all the Muslims. No effort will compensate for the despicable consequences of Arab nations' silence. Today is the day that Islam should shout and the Arab nations—especially zealous and active Islamic forces in the whole region and in the Islamic world—should understand that we cannot afford to squander this opportunity.

No one can harbor any hopes for the freedom and independence of this land and country if the remaining opportunities are lost, if the enemy and its supporters succeed in disgracing the Arab leaders in front of the regional nations, and if Israel's existence in the region is legalized.

Israel's stability will be tantamount to the beginning of a new era of chaos and insecurity in the region. Israel's stability in the region will be tantamount to direct American rule over the region's destiny. This possibility is more contemptible than can possibly be imagined.

If the Arab leaders succeed in committing this treason; that is, if the Islamic world strikes a point in favor of the savage aggressors, then beginning tomorrow all the Islamic world's borders will be exposed to invasion by foreigners who will be lured into occupying and owning Islamic lands. They will do this secure in the knowledge that the documents of ownership will eventually be signed. If the treacherous Arab leaders are unable to see this, the Arab nations are well aware of what the consequences might be and they will rise against it with all their might. Today is the day to begin.

Commentary on Turkish Attack, U.S. 'Blind Eye'

LD1008121191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Over the past few days Turkey mounted an extended military operation against the Kurdish guerrilla bases in northern Iraq. The latest reports indicate that the operation is still going on. The offensive, which violated Iraqi territorial integrity, already brought in its wake an official protest from Iraq.

Finding herself in a superior position to Iraq following the Persian Gulf crisis and her extensive cooperation with America, Turkey is now determined to make maximum use of such a position in suppressing domestic opponents.

These recent operations by Turkey have not faced a sharp reaction from America. However, German Foreign Minister Genscher accused Turkey of attacking civilians; he also condemned Turkey's move as an inhuman act that violates international norms.

Political observers believe that Turkey's attack on opposition forces stationed in another country's territory is a matter for conjecture from a number of different angles. Trying to explain away that attack, the Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesperson claimed there was no need for an agreement for entry in hot pursuit into another country, because no country would be right in protecting terrorists. Though these sentences may be acceptable to public opinion, the logic behind them has no legal foundation whatsoever. As the German foreign minister explained, such measures seriously violate international rights. Observers believe that Saddam's aggression against Kuwait, too, was launched through resorting to similar logic and arguments.

The same observers are of the opinion that [contrasting] reactions from European and American officials indicate that Turkey is increasingly drawing herself away from Europe, intending to act as America's close ally. The sharp reaction by Germany, as the most powerful member of the European Community, and the fact that America turned a blind eye to that event is proof of such an opinion.

More Iraqi Refugees Leave Bakhtaran for Home

LD1008162491 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 10,—6,154 Iraqi refugees who had been settled in camps in this western province since last March returned home on Thursday and Friday. This brings to 255,209 the total number of refugees heading for home from Bakhtaran. Some 154,791 more refugees are still in this province.

Meanwhile, Bakhtaran's Red Crescent Society donated 200 kgms of foodstuffs including rice, vegetable oil, flour, cereal and biscuits to every Iraqi family upon their return.

Nepal & Bhutan

Civil Servants Dispute Still Deadlocked

BK0708153091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug. 7 (AFP)—Talks between representatives of the Nepal Civil Servants' Organization and four government ministries failed to make progress for a sixth day Wednesday, a spokesman for the organisation said.

The meeting lasted "hardly five minutes," he said.

The spokesman also said two civil servants began hunger strikes Wednesday, joining four others whose fasts entered their third day.

Students Fast in Support

BK0908145791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 9 (AFP)—A group of 501 students observed a 12-hour fast Friday to express support for four hunger-striking civil servants, sources within the students' organisation said.

The students, members of the All Nepal Free Nationalist Students' Union, were backing the government employees, who are on the sixth day of a hunger strike at the capital's Bhadrakali Temple.

Meanwhile, 84 opposition MPs demonstrated here Friday to highlight the civil servants' plight and to embarrass the Koirala government, political observers said.

The leftwing MPs, including the leader of the main opposition Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) or NCP (UML), joined over 20,000 demonstrators who marched from the central government secretariat, witnesses said.

The protestors shouted "long live civil servants and public unity" and "let the government hold a dialogue with the civil servants without conditions."

NCP (UML) MPs paid a visit to the hunger-striking civil servants to boost their morale, a source within the party said.

The Nepal Civil Servants' Organisation has been agitating for six weeks to demand a salary hike and other benefits to help employees cope with soaring prices in Nepal after a double devaluation of the currency against the U.S. dollar.

More than 500 civil servants have been suspended, at least 60 dismissed and about 1,000 arrested because of their involvement in the agitation, the NCP (UML) source said.

Pakistan

Sharif on Opposition's Strategy, Kashmir Issue

BK1508050991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reaffirmed his government's determination to end corruption, nepotism, and job recommending as well as to provide employment and usher in a new era of progress and well being. He said the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad government is aware of its commitment to the security of the country's borders and will fulfill its entire responsibility in this regard. He was speaking at a mammoth gathering during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Bab-i-Pakistan memorial at Walton in Lahore last evening. This memorial is being built at the site of the first India refugee camp in 1947 to commemorate the sacrifices and the greatest migration in history of Muslims in South Asia.

The prime minister said they are determined to overcome age-old problems with the people's help and cooperation. He said his government has the will and courage to solve these problems to make the country prosperous, strong, and stable. He said his government resolved to exist as a dignified and sovereign nation without borrowing loans.

Criticizing the opposition, he said the Pakistan People's Party is hindering national reconstruction. The opposition attempted to misguide the nation by resorting to a hunger strike without reviewing the text of the Constitution's 12th amendment. The amendment is aimed at giving exemplary punishment to robbers, saboteurs, and antinational elements. He said the opposition's hunger strike flopped badly and subsequently, a drama [preceding word in English] was staged in the name of the all-party conference in Lahore. Leveling charges of fraud against the assemblies and describing them as hell, the opposition parties are threatening to resign. He dared them to resign from the assemblies and to see what mandate the people will give them in the by-elections. The prime minister said the opposition is involved in negative politics and has no sympathy for democracy. They raise a hue and cry for democracy when there is martial law. They also resort to the rhetoric of martial law in the name of democracy.

Referring to the Kashmir issue, the prime minister expressed the hope that the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right of self determination will succeed. Thanks to the efforts of Pakistan, he said the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization's supporting the struggle of the Kashmiris was not a simple success.

Nawaz Sharif, who is also the president of Punjab Muslim League, urged the Muslim League workers to help build Pakistan into a truly prosperous and strong nation. [passage omitted]

Bhutto on Government Repression, Nuclear Policy

BK1508032691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Speaking at a public meeting in Lahore yesterday, the Pakistan People's Party Co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto said her party's goal is not to grab power but to serve the people. Criticizing the law and order situation, she said that through the 12th Amendment to the Constitution the government has consolidated powers for vindictive use against its opponents. She accused the government of compromising on the country's nuclear program and on the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir. She also criticized the government's privatization policy.

The meeting was also addressed by, among others, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Pakistan Democratic Party chief; Asghar Khan, Tehrik-i Istiqlal chief retired air marshal; and Malik Mohammad Qasim, Pakistan Muslim League Qasim Group president.

Outgoing Army Chief on 'Vendetta' Against Bhutto

BK0808071191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Aug 8 (AFP)—Pakistan's army chief, General Aslam Beg, has come to the defense of former Premier Benazir Bhutto, who says she is the target of an unprecedented political vendetta orchestrated by the government.

"The opposition should not be pushed to the wall as this has cost us dearly in the past," the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted Beg as saying Wednesday.

Beg, who led Pakistan's army for three years and is to retire next week, also said the question of Pakistani "stability" was best resolved by national consensus.

"Officers and troops should not be disheartened by the current situation as this is a natural phenomenon in a democratic setup like ...ours which is gradually taking root," he was quoted as saying.

Beg has confounded critics who suspected him of supporting a return to martial law during Pakistan's recent political crises but during his tenure he has played a significant behind-the-scenes role between the president, prime minister and opposition. General Asif Nawaz Janjua is to replace him on August 17.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked the Bhutto government a year ago levelling charges of massive corruption and abuse of power.

The former premier has condemned the recent setting up of additional special courts aimed at cracking down on lawlessness in the country, saying they would aggravate government repression of thousands of her supporters detained in southern Sindh Province.

Beg had advised Bhutto to work toward a national consensus shortly before her dismissal on August 6, 1990.

Military Intelligence Leak Probe Continues

BK1408113391 Islamabad THE NATION Supplement in English 14 Aug 91 pp 1, 4

[By Mariana Babar; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Islamabad—An inquiry held at the Prime Minister [PM] Secretariat to look into the leakage of a confidential letter written by the director-general of military intelligence [MI], revealed that the letter distributed by Ms. Bhutto was not the copy present at the Prime Minister Secretariat.

Reliable sources told THE NATION that the copy at the Secretariat had markings and notes on it Anwar Zahid, personal secretary to prime minister. But the circulated letter did not include these. The sources maintained, however, there was no difference in the text of the letter.

It revealed that large-scale distribution of the arms licences by the Sindh chief minister to the selected parties in the province. Besides, the content of the letter which in itself was startling, there was another reaction that the incident had shaken the officials at the Interior Ministry, the Prime Minister Secretariat and the Military Intelligence Directorate.

All three departments are trying to find out where the leakage was made by which the confidential document fell in the hands of the leader of the opposition.

The inquiry to be completed was in the Prime Minister Secretariat. Our sources claim that the copy lying there have the remarks of the personal secretary written in the margin. Our sources also maintain that if it was the same copy then it would have gone in favour of the opposition to highlight that.

On Wednesday, contacts between the Interior Ministry and the PM Secretariat were made and another inquiry was now in process at the Interior Ministry. Efforts to contact the interior secretary failed as he did not respond to numerous calls.

One view, being expressed, is that if at all the leakage was made from a civilian department then it was an attempt to discredit the non-civilian agency. Sources here point to the head of another information gathering agency which has developed differences with parallel agencies.

"He is playing a very dangerous game", the source maintained.

Another bureaucrat monitoring the developments says that in reality what the MI director is saying is not different from what Gen Beg and U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley have been advocating that there should be a balance in the political field where the Opposition should be allowed to breathe. The Military Intelligence is not saying anything new", he adds.

"The different political dimensions arsing from this incident are that in the first instance what the leader of the opposition is saying publicly that Jam Sadiq is leading the province to civil war are justified.

The Military Intelligence according to the letter, is implying that the army has nothing to do with the affairs in Sindh and have distanced itself from the problems there.

Another assumption is that Jam Sadiq's claim that he is close to the militay leadership has been challenged as the letter clearly goes against him.

But what no one is denying is the fact that after the treatment the five non-civilians received in Sindh at the hands of a political party. This could be a deliberate leakage by the agency itself to expose the manner in which this political party was receiving arms.

Sharif, Khan Attend Independence Day Reception

BK1408120391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, hosted a reception in connection with Independence Day at the State Guest House in Rawalpindi today. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, also attended. Others present included the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; federal ministers; advisers; members of the Parliament and provincial assemblies; councillors; diplomats; senior civil and military officials; journalists and prominent citizens.

In a brief chat with newsmen at the reception, the prime minister said those who are threatening to resign from the assemblies should do so so that by-elections can be held. He said they would know their standing in the eyes of the people when the results of the by-elections are announced.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that the parliament is functioning satisfactorily and those who are talking against it are trying to vitiate the atmosphere. But these elements would not succeed in their designs. He was talking to newsmen at the Independence Day reception hosted by the prime minister in Rawalpindi today.

Asked about opposition's allegations of horse-trading, the president said he had issued an ordinance to check floor crossing by the members, but it were the politicians who let the ordinance lapse. However, he said, the Parliament is competent enough to make laws to check the floor crossing. He said the politicians should evolve a code of ethics.

Sharif Gives Speech To Mark Independence Day

BK1408113491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The nation is today celebrating the independence day with unprecedented zeal and fervor and renewing its pledge to spare no efforts to transform Pakistan into a truly Islamic welfare state. The prime minister addressed a grand function of flag-hoisting in front of the parliament building in Islamabad this morning. Mr. Nawaz Sharif urged the countrymen to pledge to work unitedly for the glory of the country and Muslim ummah [community], welfare of the people and establishment of a peaceful, prosperous, and forward-looking society, reflecting aspirations of the masses. He paid homage to the [word indistinct] of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and poet-philosopher Allama Mohammad Iqbal whose statesmanship was instrumental in the establishment of Pakistan. He also paid glowing tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the defense of the country and keeping the national flag aloft. The prime minister said they want to build a self-confident and self-reliant nation. He called upon the nation to live and die for Pakistan.

The prime minister hosted a reception in connection with the independence day at the State Guest House in Rawalpindi today. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, also attended. Others present include the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; federal ministers; advisers; elected representatives; diplomats; senior officials; journalists and prominent citizens. [passage omitted]

Further on Speech

BK1408163891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The nation today observed Independence Day with great zeal and fervor and a resolve to transform Pakistan into a true Islamic, democratic, and self-reliant country. The special event of the day was the hoisting of the national flag by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at a simple but dignified ceremony in front of parliament house in Islamabad this morning. The ceremony began with sirens when all kinds of traffic stopped. The prime minister unfurled the national flag and joined the entire nation in singing the national anthem. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister urged the people to make a pledge to work unitedly for the glory of the country, welfare of the people, and the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous society. He stressed the need to shun mutual differences and prejudices so as to pave the way for an atmosphere of love, tolerance, and brotherliness. He called upon the nation to make a pledge today to live and die for Pakistan. Patriotism is not anyone's monopoly. This country does not belong to any particular party, group, or family. But it belongs to all of us, the prime minister said. Nawaz Sharif said that we want to be a confident and self-reliant nation. He called upon the people to extend their cooperation to him in changing the fate of the nation by adhering to the golden principles of father of the nation and great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah. The principles are: unity, faith in God, and discipline. The prime minister said that his government's topmost priority is to establish law and peace without which no developmental activities can be initiated.

The prime minister said that Pakistan is not interfering in other's affairs nor will it allow anyone else to interfere in its own affairs. We do not have any aggressive designs against any country, the prime minister said. Pakistan has set out its national priorities, and in achieving these objectives it will not be browbeaten by intimidations and temptations. Pakistan wants to develop relations with other countries on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty. It will not allow others to decide its destiny. Nawaz Sharif referred to new realities emerging in the neighborhood and the world at large. A wave of independence has gripped the people. The prime minister said that the people of the occupied Kashmir are engaged in a heroic struggle and making sacrifices to secure their right to self-determination. Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to their plight and will continue to extend all sorts of political, diplomatic, and moral support on humanitarian grounds.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said that the tripartite agreement among Pakistan, Iran, and the Afghan mojahedin is a positive step toward the peaceful settlement of the issue. Pakistan has been making efforts to resolve the Afghanistan issue politically and to restore its independence so as to enable millions of refugees to return to their homeland with safety and security.

Radio Pakistan correspondent says that colorful balloons with Independence Day greetings banner were released as the ceremony started.

Khan, Sharif Greet Indian National Day

BK1508023291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have greeted their Indian counterparts Venkataraman and Narasimha Rao on the occasion of Indian Independence Day. They said Pakistan attaches great importance to the establishment of tension-free and cooperative relations with India and we will continue our best efforts to realize this goal.

Al-Zulfiqar Said Behind Subversive Activities

BK0908161291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali said the present government believes in the freedom of the press and it will not impose any restrictions on it. He made these observations while talking to journalists at a luncheon which he hosted in Karachi today in honor of the officeholders of the newspaper editors council. The chief

minister declared that the restoration of peace and order is the foremost priority of his government which has already restored law and order to a great extent.

Jam Sadiq Ali disclosed that the Al-Zulfiqar Organization activists want to destabilize the country. His government arrested 147 group members who have been trained as Al-Zulfiqar activists in India. He said the activists of this very organization are involved in almost all subversive activities in the province. He said he ended the atmosphere of hatred and his government's sincere desire is to totally eliminate it.

The chief minister paid rich tribute to Muhajir Qaumi Movement Leader Altaf Hussain for his sincere efforts and cooperation in restoring law and order and creating an atmosphere of brotherhood in the province. He declared that the local body elections will not be postponed and that they will be held on time.

Delhi—Sindh Nationalist Group Activists Arrested

BK1208162791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] In Pakistan, hundreds of activists belonging to the Sindh nationalist organizations are reported to have been rounded up after the adoption of the constitution 12th amendment giving sweeping powers to the Nawaz Sharif government. The leader of the Jiye Sindh Progressive Party, Dr. Qadeer Magsi, who is in detention for about 15 months, has gone on a hunger strike from Wednesday [7 August]. He has demanded that the workers of his party under detention should be tried in open courts.

General Beg—Nation Able To Confront Ordeals

BK1408101691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Aug 91 pp 1,9

[Text] Rawalpindi, Aug 13: Gen Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of the Army Staff, has said the link of his political consciousness is with Pakistan and in its stability and it is this very consciousness which has led us to accomplish our promise that we made to the nation in August 1988.

General Beg said the fast-changing situation in the region necessitated that we remain extremely vigilant as the events were so shaping that we might have to meet an ordeal or eventuality. He said, "We are fully alive to the enemy designs and machinations and its problable strategic actions for which we have adequately prepared ourselves." He expressed his deep conviction that Pakistan Army would come out victorious should such a situation ever arise.

Gen Beg said nations which remain isolated geopolitically generally tended to invite aggression. It was, therefore, imperative that we sought cooperation with those neigbours with whom we had religious, spiritual and cultural ties to be able to protect our integrity on our own. He referred to in this regard the recently reached accord among Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan and termed it as a good omen. He expressed the hope that by further enhancing such cooperation and links we would be able to ensure our security.

Gen Beg was speaking to the Army officers at the Army Auditorium here Tuesday as part of his farewell address. Among those present on the occasion included, the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee-designate, Lieut Gen Shamim Alam Khan, the Chief of the Army Staff-designate, Lieut General Asif Nawaz, Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers of the General Headlquarters, Formation Commanders and other senior army officers.

He dwelt at length on the geopolitical scenario, the challenges to the security of the country, the steps to further enhance the professional capability of the Pakistan Army during his three-year tenure as Army Chief, the measures to attain self-sufficiency in indigenous defence production and the varied schemes launched for the welfare of the soldiers.

Gen Beg said his political insight did not originate in 1988 but it started right from the movement for Pakistan in which he was practically involved and this went on strengthening as time passed. He said it was this very political consciousness which impelled him to transfer the affairs of the State to the people who are its rightful owners.

Gen Beg said institutions provided the resilience to the nation and stability to the country. The individuals, he said, do not matter as the true significance is of the institutions which operate within their own limited and laid down parameters.

He said, "Army is also an institution which has prepared itself professionally to meet any threat during the last three years, remaining firmly rooted to its own sphere of responsibility. Today, by the grace of Allah, army enjoys the fullest confidence of the nation, is cognizant of its abilities and is fully linked with national ethos and aspirations with pride and dignity."

Gen Beg said it was because of his deep-seated passion for national stability which induced him to making statements on those national and international issues which had direct bearings on national security. "My views," he said, "very often caused misunderstanding among some and doubts were expressed with respect to my intentions." Nevertheless, I stood firm on my commitments made to the nation and Allah has bestowed upon me the sigular honour of retiring from the Army with dignity and pride, he added.

Referring to the army's preparedness to meet the challenges, Gen Beg said after the painful debacle of 1971 he had been praying to Almighty Allah to grant the Pakistan Army the vigour and vitality to be able to defeat any aggression in totality. He said he could proudly say today that Pakistan Army had found its destination which was amply demonstrated during exercise " 'Zarb-e-Momin'." This exercise, he said, had three major objectives: first to

test the capablity of senior commanders to handle large Army into manoeuvres; second to convince the nation that Pakistan Army was far different from that of 1971. It knew its job well and it was endowed with full capability to fulfil any mission assigned to it and, thirdly, to convey to the adversary that Pakistan army was no longer any easy morsel and was fully geared to ruthlessly crush any aggression. "We achieved all these objectives and I am confident that this journey towards attaining yet better professional prowess will continue under the guidance of my successor," he added.

Commentary on Afghan Dialogue With USSR

BK1408112591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] Coming barely 10 days after the trilateral talks on Afghanistan in which Iran, Pakistan, and Afghan mojahedin—both Iran and Pakistan based—participated, the Afghan parleys between Pakistan and the Soviet Union completed in Islamabad yesterday must be seen as a positive indication of the peace efforts on Afghanistan gaining momentum. The current peace process was set in motion by the unfolding of the five-point UN plan three months ago. The first practical step was taken a couple of months ago when a Pakistan diplomat visited Moscow to discuss the UN proposal with his Soviet counterpart. The recent Islamabad negotiations have been described as the second round of the Afghan dialogue between Pakistan and the Soviet Union to be followed by third round with Moscow as the likely venue. In between, what may be called as the second round of the tripartite talks is scheduled to be held in Tehran toward the end of this month.

The Pakistan Foreign Office has said that the Pakistan-Soviet talks were held in an atmosphere of understanding, cordiality, and good will. Both the sides have fully agreed to the need for an early political settlement of the issue. The talks had helped to bridge the gap between perceptions of the Soviet Union in Pakistan regarding the UN formula. The differences in their respective viewpoints relate to the participants and their views of the intra- Afghan negotiations, the transitional arrangements and elements to be included in it, elections and their modalities and the question of negative symmetry in supply of arms to the opposing Afghan factions. These are delicate questions and have to be handled with care. It is almost certain that at Moscow both sides will address themselves to considering them threadbare in the light of the discussions held at Islamabad and the points that mights be raised at Tehran talks. Also, other interested parties such as the United States and Saudi Arabia have to be involved in the search for a political settlement of the Afghanistan question and their views ascertained, and the overall question addressed in the (?light) of Pakistan-Soviet differences identified at Islamabad.

Afghanistan problem is now almost 12 years old and although the Soviet troops are no longer in Afghanistan, with the passage of time the question has assumed considerable complexity and the proverbial end of the problem is not yet in sight. Most of the vital issues such as the exercise by Afghans of their right to choose their government of their own liking and the honorable return home of the Afghan refugees are yet to be resolved. Unless these issues are settled amicably, there is little likelihood of the return of the internal peace in Afghanistan and the situation would continue to pose a serious threat to the regional stability and international order.

It was not expected that the recent Pakistan-Soviet talks at Islamabad would be able to find a final solution to the problem. But most observers believe that the talks have ended in a positive note and this means a significant progress in the peace process. The fact that the visiting Soviet delegation had a meeting with the representatives of Afghan mojahedin as well must add to healthy outlook that has emerged after the talks that would undoubtedly pave the way for an even more meaningful dialogue with Moscow.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on State Policy

BK1408113991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Aug 91 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13—Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki Tuesday said that friendship with Islamic countries is an important pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy.

In an interview broadcast from Radio Pakistan, he said the country is following an independent foreign policy geared to serve the national interests. The policy, he said, was chartered in line with the national interests and based on realistic view of international situation.

Mr Zaki dwelt at length on Pakistan's relations with the Muslim Ummah, the permanent members of the United Nations, Afghanistan and Kashmir issues, and recent 20th ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Foreign Ministers conference.

He said after passing through various phases over the past 40 years, the country at long last was now moving towards its real goal. It was the commitment of Muslims of the subcontinent to transform Pakistan into an Islamic democratic welfare state.

He said as a Muslim country, forging of friendly and pleasant relations with Muslim nations is central to our foreign policy. Pakistan, he said, shared their sorrows and happiness and treated their problems as its own.

He said Pakistan always supported cause of Afghanistan liberation struggle of Kashmiris, Palestine, and steadfastly opposed aggression in the Gulf, by spurning all foreign pressure. Pakistan, he said, also supported Kuwait's liberations and rights of Muslim minorities in

non-Muslim countries. These issues, he said, were part of Pakistan's foreign policy which it would continue to support unswervingly.

He said Pakistan's relations with the United States somewhat soured in the past few months. However, we have made it clear that we share commonality of views on several issues and will continue to cooperate with each other. Wherever there is disagreement, we would endeavour to remove it through dialogue, he added.

He said Pakistan enjoyed very good relations with China and we would continue to further improve these ties. It is, he said, an "important pillar of our foreign policy".

He said we are also trying to improve relations with the Soviet Union which remained slightly under strain due to Afghanistan.

Mr Zaki said Pakistan was striving hard to find out political solution of the Afghanistan problem and expressed confidence that relations between the two countries would improve once this issue was solved.

He said Pakistan would continue its good relations with France and European countries. We will maintain our relations in spheres of economic, trade and politics.

Similarly our relations with Britain would also improve and in this respect he mentioned Pakistan's decision to rejoin the Commonwealth.

He said Pakistan accorded importance to Japan which has emerged as the developed country in this region.

Referring to relations with the neighbouring countries he said Pakistan enjoyed very good fraternal relations with Iran.

He said tension existed in relations with India due to continuation of the Kashmir dispute. He said the government would compel India to resolve the issue through dialogue by moulding the world opinion.

He said Pakistan also desired to enter into direct talks with India on the Prime Minister's proposal to keep South Asia free from atomic and dangerous weapons.

He made it clear that Pakistan's foreign policy is not subservient to any foreign country.

Referring to the recent ICO Foreign Minister's meeting held at Istanbul he said Islamic Ummah accounted for 20 per cent population of the world, produced 50 per cent petrol in the world, and possessed 40 per cent of raw material of the globe.

He said Allah Almighty has endowed the Muslim world with vast resources and if they cooperate with each other and move forward together, they could win a very significant place in the world.

He said it remained Pakistan's endeavour in the ICO Foreign Minister's moot to shed differences and bitterness created by the Gulf war. A spade be called a spade, and we should side with justice, he said.

The role of Pakistan at the conference, he said, was to convince the participants that Muslim countries could work together by forgetting the past events. The result was positive. All seven resolutions on Kashmir, Afghanistan, keeping South Asia free from lethal weapons were passed without any opposition.

The resolution on Kashmir passed this year, he said, proved that Islamic world condemned the violation of human rights, and events warranted that people of Kashmir be given their right to self-determination.

He said with a view to adopting a common goal of Islamic countries moving together, it was decided to identify role of the Muslim Ummah in the unfolding New World Order in the ICO's summit meeting to be held at Senegal.